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THE

PHYSIO-MEDICAL JOURNAL

AND

REFORM ADVOCATE.

EDITED AND PUBLISHED BY

THE JOURNAL COMMITTEE,

Appointed by the Indiana State Physio-Medical Convention,

Held June, 1874.

The bare intelligence and memory of philosophical propositions, with an ability to demonstrate them, is not philosophy, but history only. Where such propositions, however, are determined and true, they may be usefully applied in practice even by those who are ignorant of their demonstrations.—*Leonard.*

VOLUME I.

INDIANAPOLIS:
PRINTING AND PUBLISHING HOUSE PRINT.
1875.

PREFACE TO VOLUME I.

We are aware that very few persons ever read a preface to a book, and for that reason we would omit writing one for this volume, but for the fact that it has been published under peculiar and rather embarrassing circumstances, which we think it necessary to refer to now. The work was undertaken by us in compliance with a resolution passed by the Indiana State Physio-Medical Convention, at its annual session in 1874; and also at the earnest request of many friends of Physio-Medicalism and General Reform throughout the country. The want of a journal which might serve as a medium of communication between those entertaining like views on these subjects had long been felt; and with the assurance of many professional friends that they would give us a hearty support, with both purse and pen, we entered upon the responsible duties of Editors, with no previous experience, and very strong misgivings as to our ability to perform the task before us. Many of our friends have fulfilled their promises fully, for which they have our sincere thanks; but duty to all concerned compels us to say that quite a number have *failed*—failed perhaps for reasons best known to themselves—to give us that support which we had a right to expect. It may be well, however, that we did not foresee, or even suspect, these failures, for if we had this Journal "would never have seen the light." We mention these facts not so much in a spirit of fault finding, as to apologize for our failure to make the Journal fully meet the end for which its publication was commenced. However much we have failed, we do not feel that our efforts have been entirely fruitless—"love's labor lost"—but we hope we have done the cause some good, if in nothing else, by collecting for preservation many fragments of the history of Physio-Medicalism which were "lying around loose," and likely to be lost. But to be brief we, for the present at least, bid the readers of the first volume farewell.

COMMITTEE.

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TO OUR READERS.

We hope that those who wish the second volume of this journal will forward the subscription price *at once* without further solicitation, as we wish to make up our list immediately. COMMITTEE.

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Physio-Medical Journal

AND

REFORM ADVOCATE.

VOL. I. *INDIANAPOLIS, MARCH, 1875.* No. 3

PHYSIO-MEDICALISM.—ITS HISTORY.

No. II.

IN the last issue of this journal we said that Samuel Thompson had done more than any one man in laying the foundation upon which Physio-Medicalism was built. Yet we must admit that many of the propositions upon which he founded his practice were very crude, and in some sense untenable. For instance, he says in his narrative, sixth edition, page 52: "I found, after maturely considering the subject, that all animated bodies are formed by four elements—earth, air, fire and water. Earth and water constitute the solids, and air and fire, or heat, are the cause of life and motion." These statements, taken in their literal sense, are obviously untrue; yet as he afterwards explains what he means by them, he was not so far from the truth as at first sight would appear. Again, he says on the same page, "I found that all disorders which the human family were afflicted with, however various the symptoms and different the names by which they are called, arise directly from obstructed perspiration, which is always caused by cold, or want of heat; for if there is a

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fearing to assume the responsibilities of maintaining the right. We hope that the light of this trial, with the history of its results, will encourage such skulkers to arm themselves with moral stamina enough to come to the front and maintain their place in the ranks, or else retire from the field so they may not hinder the operations of those who are disposed to fight, if need be, in the good cause. If Physio-Medicalists would each make one-tenth the sacrifice that Thomson did, the system would be much more widely known and generally appreciated than it is to-day. In less than two years after Thomson's acquittal he went to Philadelphia where he was met by Dr. Rush, who had a world-wide reputation as the father of American medicine, and by Dr. Barton and others of high repute as physicians, by whom he was treated with due respect, and his system was also duly considered by some of them, and after a proper trial some of his medicines were highly commended.

Before closing for the present, we will just say that within two years from the close of the trial Thomson went to Washington City and got a patent from the Government giving him the exclusive use of certain medicines therein named, recognizing him as the original discoverer, of which he of course had to make sufficient proof before he could obtain his patent. We are particular to mention this because there are men at this day who have the effrontery to say that Thomson was not the original discoverer; but every one must know that Dr. Thornton, Secretary Monroe's clerk, would have to be well satisfied of the justness of Thomson's claim before he would have signed his letters patent.

We will close here with the remark, that in the next number we expect to continue this history, and try to show wherein Thomson made some of the greatest mistakes of his life, by which the cause in which he was engaged suffered loss. C.

INJURIES OF THE KNEE-JOINT.

Among surgeons and people there exists an opinion, which is not without some foundation, that injuries to the knee-joint, which open the synovial sac, will, in a great majority of cases, result in anchylosis, or "stiffening" of the joint. An examination of the treatment which such injuries generally receive will, perhaps, expose the foundation for this opinion, or a portion of it, at least. Depletion, by blood-letting or drastic catharsis; or, as is sometimes the case, by both these methods, is resorted to in order to combat the inflammation and fever which generally attend injuries of this character, This prevents or delays the healing process by a direct reduction of vitality and the removal from the blood of those materials which are so important that no repairs can be made without them; and before the system can recover from the prostration thus induced, a morbid change in the injured part is very apt to occur. The synovial sac will be relaxed and thickened, and the character of its secretion changed. Also a course of mercurialization is frequently given, by which the vital powers of the system are reduced, and constitutional disease added to local injury, so that a speedy recovery is out of the question, and the chances for anchylosis greatly increased. Cold water dressings are also applied in many cases. These so reduce the temperature and vital action in the parts concerned, that no healing process can be established, and morbid accumulations are sure to follow. All of this treatment seems to be directed against fever and inflammation, as though they were the principal evils to be combatted, and would certainly produce a stiff knee if not speedily subdued. As though Nature had made a mistake and could not be permitted to pursue her course, but must be prevented by reducing the powers of life with the most destructive means that can be brought to bear in the case. Any one may demonstrate the folly of this practice by simply obeying, in his treatment, the behests of Nature; for she is always right, she never makes mistakes. These are always the work of the surgeon, who is sure to be in error when he opposes her efforts.

Suppose we have the synovial membrane of the knee-joint wounded with a sharp instrument. Now if the wound is properly adjusted, a soothing application used, and the patient kept quiet, the inflammation will be slight and the healing rapid and safe in every respect. Quietness is necessary, because every motion of the joint irritates the wounded membrane, which is not in a usable condition. Nature warns the patient of this fact by the acute pain which follows the slightest motion. And soothing appliances, such as warm water dressings, during the stage of inflammation, to which may be added some simple nervine, will be found sufficient, because nature possesses ample means to repair the injury, and only requires that the injured part shall be protected till she has completed the work.

The following cases will illustrate these positions. (Two of these cases, the first and second, were reported at length in *The Physio-Medical Recorder* for May, 1868.)

Case 1.—Edward Ditman made a slight puncture in the synovial membrane of his knee with the small blade of a pocket-knife. The wound gave him but little uneasiness till the next day after the accident, when it began to be very painful. He then called a physician, who bled him and administered a drastic cathartic. In the evening of the same day he called again and repeated the bleeding and cathartic. The patient now became irritable and wakeful, and opium was given to induce sleep, but failed. The knee continued to swell; the synovial sac was soon distended with pus, which soon perforated the membrane and escaped into the popliteal space and was diffused among the tissues above and below the knee. Muriated tincture of iron was now given to replenish the blood, but the destruction of tissue continued, and the blood was not in any respect improved, for that fluid is not composed of muriatic acid and iron. The patient kept on sinking, and died a victim to the depleting treatment.

Case 2.—Lewis Drew, while chopping wood had a log to roll and throw him off. He dropped his ax and fell on his knees. The blade of the ax entered the right knee very close to the lower edge of the patella, making a transverse incision nearly two inches in length and directly into the joint. The ligament was not entirely severed, a portion of the outer edge remaining attached to the patella. The wound bled quite freely and gaped more than half an inch. This case was treated in accordance with nature's indications, adhesive straps being used to bring the edges of the wound together. The patient took but one dose of medicine (a mild cathartic), and was so far recovered on the seventh day after the injury that he went a fishing. The use of the knee was fully restored in two weeks.

Case 3.—Johnson, a six-year-old son of Elias Fry, was attacked with remittent fever, the paroxysms occurring on alternate days. On one of his better days, while playing in the woodyard with his older brothers, one of them struck him a severe blow with a sharp ax. He was sitting on a log at the time. The ax took effect on the top of the thigh, two and one-half inches above the knee, glancing downward and outward after striking the bone. About one-half of the flesh of the limb was severed obliquely. The muscles retracted, leaving the bone bare for two inches of its length, and the wound gaped fully six inches wide, the synovial sac being opened on the outside of the knee. I succeeded in dressing the wound to my satisfaction, but the remitting fever continued six days; and during the hight of the fever, spasmodic contraction of the injured muscles occurred with so much force that the wound was torn open afresh on three occasions, forty-eight hours apart. This complication so aggravated the case that I feared the little sufferer might lose his limb; but when the remitting fever subsided the wound began to heal nicely, and continued to improve till the wound in the synovial membrane was closed. Then the sac began to pouch out in front of the knee, inside of the ligamentum patella. This pouch continued to increase in size for three days, when I punctured it with a sharp-pointed bistoury, making an incision one-fourth of an inch in length. Pus was freely discharged at this opening, and it was kept running for five days, when it closed, and there was no more difficulty in the case. The healing process continued steadily till the wound was completely healed. Anchylosis was fully expected in this case, but the boy came out with a good supple joint.

Case 4.—John Wood wounded his knee with a chopping ax. He was five miles from home when the accident occurred, and as the hemorrhage was profuse, his brother tied an elastic suspender above the knee just tight enough to check the return circulation, placed the patient in a heavy road wagon and drove home, consuming more than an hour on the road. By this management the blood was kept flowing, so that John's system was pretty well drained when the journey was completed. The bandage was removed and the limb cleansed, when it was found that the ax had entered the joint. This patient was so much depleted that pretty positive stimulation was required to keep up a sufficient vital action in the injured part. He recovered his strength slowly, and the wound was nearly three weeks in healing. Also, the knee was several months in regaining its strength, and the motion of the joint was quite limited for nearly a year. In this case the powers of the system were so much prostrated by the depleting hemorrhage that nature was unable to repair the injury in a perfect manner, and he came very near having a stiff knee in the end.

Case 5.—Benj. Morton was kicked by a horse on the inside of the knee. The bruise was severe, and much swelling and inflammation followed. He resorted to fomentations and warm poultices till the excitement and swelling subsided, still there was a soft lump on the side of his sensitive knee, and every motion of the joint was attended with pain. In this condition I saw the case, and soon discovered that the soft lump complained of was the distended synovial sac. I immediately punctured it with a sharp-pointed bistoury, when a considerable quantity of yellowish fluid (the synovial secretion) was discharged. The relief was immediate. I covered the wound with a shaving of beeswax retained by court-plaster, and directed the patient to keep quiet for several days, and to renew the fomentations and poultices if the knee became painful. Forty-eight hours after this, the knee feeling comfortable, Mr. M. rode two miles to a vendue, but his knee soon began to pain severely, and he returned home and applied a warm poultice, which soon moistened the plaster and allowed the fluid to be discharged from the sac. Relief followed. Mr. M. now continued the poultices, and kept quiet for five days, when his knee was fully restored and he went about his business as usual.

These cases clearly demonstrate the superiority of natural medication in surgical cases, and illustrate the fact that it is much better to puncture the synovial sac than to allow it to be destroyed by morbid accumulations. D.

PNEUMONIA.

[As this is the season in which pneumonia occurs, the physio-medical management of it should be brought before the public and its superiority shown. I know of one allopathic M. D. who has lost six cases within the past month.—D. C. WILSON.]

REMARKS.—Pneumonia (lung fever) is indeed a serious and alarmingly fatal affliction, when treated according to allopathy, as numerous graves all over the country will attest. Mr. Falkenburg, of Lawrence, Marion county, Indiana, informed me a few weeks since that he had preached nine funerals during the past six weeks, the deaths having occurred from pneumonia under allopathic management.

It has been estimated that four thousand cases of pneumonia annually occur in Indiana, and that fifteen hundred of these die. But if, to avoid the appearance of extravagance, we reduce this estimate and allow that one thousand persons annually die of this form of disease in Indiana, the number is still sufficiently large to demand the earnest attention of both physicians and people.

The conditions in pneumonia are these: The patient is first exposed to a cold atmosphere, which reduces the temperature of the lungs, the extremities and the surface generally, causing contraction of the blood-vessels in these parts, and causing the blood to accumulate in less exposed portions of the system, constituting internal congestion. At this point the patient suffers but little inconvenience, save the disagreeable sensation of coldness; but as soon as he enters a warm room a few inhalations of warm air are sufficient to warm and relax the lung tissue. This invites an influx of blood, and we soon have more or less congestion of the lungs. Now if the patient is sufficiently vigorous and hardy to endure this condition till the extremities and surface are warmed and relaxed, and the circulation equalized, no disease will result; but the lung tissue, or some portion of it, having suffered a reduction of its vital energy, or acting capacity, is unable to resist the pressure of blood—its elastic property is overcome, and the congestion is established. This condition is frequently attended with acute pain, and is ushered in with distinct rigors, after which inflammatory action is set up in the lung and general fever soon follows. The extremities generally remain cool and shrunken till the fever is established. The indications are stimulation and relaxation of the most positive character, both internally and externally, during the stage of excitement, and supporting treatment during the intervals. Quinine is not indicated except to counteract periodicity.

The reason that allopathic practitioners lose so many of these cases is seen in the character of the agents they use. Opium, chloral, veratrum, gelseminum, mercury, whisky, brandy and quinine are the principal items in the list; and when we are acquainted with the deadly properties of most of these agents, and reflect that men, women and children are required to swallow such destructive poisons because they are so unfortunate as to have pneumonia, we are surprised that any should survive. But when we see nearly one-half of those who are doomed to pass through this terrible ordeal, rise superior to the narcotism of chloral and opium, the sedative prostration of gelseminum and veratrum veride, the disorganizing power of mercury, the brain-befogging, mind-bewildering, nerve-unstringing, presumptuous irritation and depression of alcohol, and the perils of lung fever beside, we are filled with admiration by the wonderful endurance and elasticity of the human constitution, and are constrained to opine that very many of those who die would recover if the medication could be omitted.

The agents used by physio-medicalists in the treatment of pneumonia are innocent. They act in harmony with vitality. The patient may double or quadruple the prescribed dose and feel no harm. He may even take enormous amounts of P. M. remedies and get well all the faster. The consequence is, that our patients rarely die, neither do they suffer much prostration or protracted illness; from three to seven days being the duration of their confinement. Also, when the patient recovers he is well. He has suffered but temporary injury from the pneumonia, and the medicine has not injured a fiber of his tissue, but he finds that his system is purified and invigorated by its action, every organ being left with all its vitality and functional capacity intact, and ready for full and complete action. In short, the man goes about his business every whit made whole. Not so with the man who is poisoned from the beginning to the end of his sickness. If he should be so fortunate as to escape death, he is sure to suffer a protracted and painful illness, followed by a tedious and imperfect convalescence. He is left feeble and unsound. The stamina of his system is sapped; the foundation of his health is broken up, and he suffers from indigestion and nervous prostration, and besides this, his lungs are permanently injured, so that he is in constant danger from subsequent attacks of pneumonia. In short, he is a confirmed invalid with his usefulness and happiness abridged, his sufferings multiplied and his life shortened.

I have only noted the principles which should govern the treatment of pneumonia. The specific treatment admits of variation, and we hope our friends will feel free to report this management. D.

SUB-NITRATE OF BISMUTH.

Is SUB-NITRATE of bismuth a physio-medical remedy?—D. C. W.

ANSWER.—This question has been asked before, but so far as we know it has not been definitely and authoritatively settled. The U. S. Dispensatory says: "Sub-nitrate of bismuth is a tasteless, inodorous, heavy powder, of a pure white color. It is slightly soluble in water, and readily so in the strong acids, from which it is precipitated by water. The fixed alkalies dissolve it sparingly, and ammonia more readily. It is darkened by hydrosulphuric acid gas, but not by exposure to light, unless it contains a little silver, or is subjected to the influence of organic matter. If it dissolves in nitric acid without effervescence, it contains no carbonate, and if the nitric solution is not precipitated by dilute sulphuric acid, it is free from lead. It sometimes contains arsenic, which may be detected by acting on it with pure sulphuric acid, evaporating to dryness, dissolving in hot distilled water, and testing a part of the solution by Marsh's apparatus."

"*Medical Properties.*—Sub-nitrate of bismuth is antispasmodic, absorbent, and slightly sedative and astringent. When its use is too long continued it produces scorbutic symptoms, a proof that it is absorbed." In these large doses (½ dr.) the medicine is said to be perfectly safe; and yet Orfilla mentions, as resulting from an overdose, gastric distress, nausea, vomiting, diarrhœa or constipation, colic, heat in the breast, slight rigors, vertigo and drowsiness. These effects are to be combatted by mucilaginous drinks, enemata, and emolient fomentations, and in case of inflammation, by bleeding, both general and local. The contradictory statements as to the safety of the preparation, can be explained only on the supposition that it is sometimes rendered poisonous by the presence of arsenic, chloride of bismuth, or free nitric acid. Ludlow's Manual says: "It is tonic, antispasmodic, and has been used in epilepsy, cardialgia, pyrosis, gastrodynia, chronic inflammation of the stomach; in overdoses it produces gastric distress, diarrhœa, vertigo, drowsiness, etc." Taylor and other authors testify to the same effect, which we think is fully sufficient to completely settle the question in the mind of any physio-medicalist.

Inasmuch, then, as we have an abundant supply of sanative agents in our materia medica to fulfill all the indications for which bismuth has been recommended—agents which will fulfill them quite as readily and efficiently without any danger to the patient—we therefore think the question is or should be settled in the negative. We think no physio-medicalist should allow himself to use or in any way tamper with any agents which sustain such a doubtful character amongst their friends. C.

ENUCLEATION OF THE EYE-BALL.

BY PROF. D. C. WILSON.

THE frequency of the operation known as enucleation, the deformity produced, and the serious consequences following the removal of an eye, naturally lead us to an investigation with a view to the abandonment in nearly all cases of the painful and dangerous proceedings of tearing an eye-ball from its socket.

The most common causes for which enucleation is performed are anterior synechia and staphyloma, or a strangulation of a portion of the iris in an opening in the cornea, produced by ulceration or of traumatic origin. If it becomes certain that an eye is affected with a malignant tumor, its removal is demanded at once, but for the above named condition there is no excuse for the performance of enucleation. I know of several who have lost an eye by enucleation recently for difficulties involving the iris and cornea, who might have been relieved more satisfactorily to all concerned by a far simpler operation.

The principal objections to be urged are that the socket becomes filled with a fungus growth which prevents the wearing of an artificial eye. The artificial eye is generally nearly or quite immovable, the muscles become atrophied in the region of the eye and present an unsightly appearance; and aside from the deformity, it is well to remember that enucleation is not at all a guarantee that the nutrition of the other eye will improve.

I will illustrate by referring to the case of Mrs. W., of Matoon, Ill., who came to me suffering with a severe pain in one eye, caused by an injury in the ciliary region twelve years ago. She had suffered intensely for several years, and had tormented the eye with all manner of applications in hope of getting relief. There was a prolapsed portion of iris, attresia pupillae, anterior synechia, detachment of the retina, and sympathetic opthalmia of the other eye of so serious a character that she was unable to see to go about alone. She had been advised by a number of noted surgeons of Chicago and elsewhere to have the eye extirpated without delay. She was placed under the influence of chloroform, and a linear incision made at the margin of the cornea of about four lines in extent, and all of the strangulated portion of iris removed. The pain ceased shortly afterwards, the wound healed readily, and the sight of the other eye returned gradually in the course of a few weeks. It is now over a year since the operation, and as there has been no return of the difficulty, I conclude that the cure is complete. The eye being about three-fourths of its original size a glass eye can be worn that will have the motion and appearance of a natural eye. The operation being usually performed to prevent sympathetic ophthalmia. I claim that a seasonable operation after the above method, will fulfill all the indications better than enucleation. When the pain and irritation are removed the results need not be feared.

I have a number of cases that I could give the history of, in addition to the one given, which fully demonstrate the truth of the above statements.

All applications to the eye of an astringent or irritating character, where there is ciliary neurosis or exposed or strangulated portions of iris, are very injurious, and are frequently the direct cause of sympathetic ophthalmia and loss of vision in the other eye.

The grounds for enucleation are based on hospital reports, where the patients are more frequently affected with scrofula and syphilis, and where they are subject to poisonous germs of disease generated in all institutions of that character that have been in use a number of years, and will not be a correct guide in private practice, among the people who reside at their own homes and are in better sanative surroundings.

COMMENCEMENT.

THE closing exercises of the Physio-Medical College of Indiana were held in the Hall of the College on Thursday, February 18, 1875, at three o'clock P. M. A few appropriate remarks were made by Prof. Geo. Hasty, after which the degree of Doctor in Medicine was conferred on

W. A. SPURGEON,
C. T. BEDFORD,
WM. OVERMAN,
J. D. CONSTABLE,
A. J. REEVES,
J. J. BAKER,

the diplomas being delivered by Andrew Wallace, President of the College; after which short addresses were delivered by Professors G. N. Davidson and John Young. Several friends of the College were in attendance, and all seemed to be well pleased.

IS CARBOLIC ACID A PHYSIO-MEDICAL REMEDY?

THIS appropriate question is asked by a "Subscriber" to the JOURNAL. Before attempting to answer it, I wish to correct a typographical error which occurred in the article that suggested this query to the mind of Subscriber. On page 9, No. 1 of the JOURNAL, for "regularly discharging," read regularly disappearing. Now to the question, "Is carbolic acid a Physio-medical remedy?" I say no, if used with the view of making an impression upon a pathological condition through the nerve centers. Notwithstanding large quantities of carbolic acid have been administered, (S. Austine Brown, M. D., U. S. N., administered for tape-worm ge iig, acid carbolic crys, every three hours for four consecutive days), without producing any toxical symptoms, too many cases have been recorded within the last decade where grave symptoms, and many times death, have followed the use of carbolic acid, to admit of its administration within the limits of the definition given of Physio-medicalism, on page 5 of same number of JOURNAL.

And now to gloss this paradox, I will give my reasons for using the poison in the case referred to. In my own mind I felt quite certain that emetics, baths and enemas were of but little consequence in this form of disease; that they would not lead to the closure of the ruptured inner-coats of the artery, nor yet alternates favor the deposit of coagula in quantities sufficient to induce a spontaneous curd. I knew that I was then to deal with a form of disease which is purely surgical; demanding interference in kind which in a strict sense can not be physiological; yet wishing to be as nearly so as possible in my interference, I sought the coagulation of the blood within the tumor.

Thomas Turner, Esq., F. R. C. S., and Senior Surgeon at the Manchester Royal Infirmary, in a paper published in the London Lancet, of 1864, "On the therapeutic properties of carbolic acid," in speaking of its use in hæmorrhoids, says: "It coagulates the contents, which may be squeezed out." Many experiments of my own since that time with it, have shown that arterial blood, meeting with carbolic acid, is instantly congealed, the fibrin holding the other ingredients of the blood in a firm clot. If, by the law of endosmose, the acid will coagulate the blood in a hæmorrhoidal tumor, why not try the experiment on an anemismal tumor? Thus I reasoned, and thus I acted, feeling then, as now, that I was violating no tenable law of natural medication.

Perhaps it is proper for me to state here, that the man on whom the tumor was, is of the opinion that the electrical current was the more important factor in the removal of the difficulty. The soreness resulting from the use of the battery being so intense as to disable him to rest that side of his head on a pillow, it may be possible that the inflammatory action resulting from its use was sufficient to lead to the deposit of fibrin enough to fill the cavity of the tumor with coagula. I am undecided upon this point, and have brought this case before the profession, from the fact that, it is the only case of the kind with which I have met, in a large practice of many years, and might not again have a chance to try the virtue of the remedies, separately, or conjointly in another case myself. Z. H.

COMMUNICATION.

To the Journal Committee:

Gentlemen—Inasmuch as you have named the new Journal The Physio-Medical Journal and Reform Advocate, I will express my thoughts by saying that I not only admire the Journal as a journal, but I like the title or heading it sails under, for what is physio-medicalism il it is not reform. The term physio is taken from the Greek physis and means nature, and the word medical from medicus, which in turn is taken from medeor, which means to cure or heal; then putting the two together I understand it to imply nature's method of healing disease in contradistinction to all other schools of medicine which, instead of aiding nature to throw off disease by furnishing the system with sanative agents, will follow the "old routine" of giving *poisons*. And then I look on the true physio-medicalist as not only a reformer in medicine alone. For how can he be such and encourage the use of tobacco in any of its forms, much less that of whisky. And now while I am upon that subject I will say that I hope to see alcohol in all its various forms banished from every physio-medical physician's prescriptions, for I verily believe that doctors can make more drunkards by prescribing alcoholic stimulants for medical purposes alone, than all our crusaders and temperance efforts will be able to overcome. For the great mistake of physicians generally is that when they prescribe such agents they fail to tell the patient when to *stop*. And the result is the patient goes on until he becomes a confirmed drunkard, and should you remonstrate with him he will coolly reply that he was recommended to use it by Dr. so and so for his health. Then again I will say that I admire the title of our new journal, and would recommend it to all reformers of whatsoever kind, and wish that it may prosper and continue to disseminate true reform. It is what we have long felt the need of, and now to the profession at large and to all the friends at large I would say let us come forward and throw in our mite to help support and encourage the new enterprise by subscribing for it at once. C. T. BEDFORD.

Newcastle, Ind.

RESULTS OF PHYSIO-MEDICAL PRACTICE.

During the month of January, 1875, I prescribed for and visited *one hundred and twenty-nine families*, and eight persons without families—treated many cases of pneumonia without visiting them, and did not lose a case of any form of disease. Under other treatment pneumonia has been unusually fatal, in this county.

Young men who are about to commence the study of medicine will do well to observe these *results*, and subscribe for the PHYSIO-MEDICAL JOURNAL AND REFORM ADVOCATE. Commence right—come down to the "bed rock" (as the miners say), for a foundation. It is there you will find the "pay grand."

If you study false theories, or a system of medicine without a foundation you, as well as your patrons, will be disappointed.

People are now thinking more for themselves than in former days, and the system of poisoning to cure disease, is rapidly on the decline. Allopathic colleges are sending out thousands of graduates every year, and they are not in demand—the people want men educated to administer sanative agents. ALBERT CHURCHELL, M. D.

Nevada, Vernon County, Mo., February 1, 1875.

DO WE MURDER OUR DAUGHTERS?

BY ELIZABETH DUDLEY.

[THE following, copied from the Science of Health, was written by Elizabeth Dudley, the author of How to Kill Babies Quickly, which was published last month in this journal. Perhaps but few persons will, on first reading, fully comprehend the important truths therein expressed. We repeat what we said of the other article, "it must be well studied to be well understood." In other words, it is a glass which reflects the characteristic features of many

daughters and mothers in our country much more plainly than at first glance might be supposed to appear. C.]

The other day a young lady called on me. This is an unusual occurrence; girls often rush into my secluded sanctum and probe me with questions pertaining to the vast and subtle mysteries which their minds are eager to penetrate. Young women sometimes come, sad-eyed and earnest, seeking health or sober advice concerning the realities of life, and the possibility of existing without defrauding either yourself or your neighbor; but I seldom receive a voluntary call from that peculiar evolvement of my sex which is commonly designated "a young lady."

I am sure that this was a young lady, because she wore a silk dress in one of the newest colors, trimmed with perpendicular pipings and quillings on the front breadth, and seven flounces on the back breadths; also with embroidery and velvets of the same shade, and fringe, and lace, and a redingote of the same, cut in the very latest style. All her other attire was in keeping, but I have not space to describe it. You can see her for yourself, riding on the avenue every time she gets a new suit.

At first I was not quite sure that there was any vestige of a woman inside all those wonderful draperies; but the scolding she administered soon convinced me. I did not listen at first, having become so used to scoldings that now they simply bore me; but presently her words dissipated my train of thought, and I heard the following:

"I did think you took an interest in girls, that you wanted us to succeed and do well in life. I would never have believed that you would turn against us and take sides with our persecutors. Whose fault is it, I would like to know, that we are as we are? Why, the fault of our parents and of society!

"Can I help it that I was born a puny, nervous, little wretch, with not half my share of the breath of life in me?

Why did my parents bring me into existence before they knew that they were fit for the responsibility? A slender, consumptive boy, and a nervous, melancholy girl—what right had they to marry? And when they saw me, why did they not drown me at once? That would have been more merciful! Since they would keep me alive, why did not they give me fresh air, and my natural food, and study the plain, simple laws of physiology, that they might apply them to my case, and make my enforced existence a pleasure?

"And when I feebly fought, and feebly struggled against such fearful odds, and conquered by a hair's breadth, so that not only I did not die, but my mind began to awaken, why did they adopt such an imbecile mode of training? When the outside world forced itself, object by object, upon my notice, and I ran to them with eager questions, they replied: 'You are too young to understand, you must not ask questions; when you are older you will know.' But I could not wait to be older. I went to my nurse, and she told me a pack of nonsense, which I soon found to be lies, but have never forgotten. Why did not my parents tell at least a part of the truth, and satisfy me for the time? A child can not read a whole book at a sitting, but it can learn the letter A, the key to the whole.

"Then, when my questions became too many and too searching for them, they sent me to school. I was glad to go, thinking that now I should have a teacher—now I might learn. But when I asked questions there, the teacher told me, 'Hush! Talking is not allowed here; you must study.' Then, 'to discipline my mind,' they offered antediluvian fossils of incomprehensible grammar, and brain-addling mathematics, and ghostly histories. And when I craved some physiological knowledge of myself and the laws that govern life, they made me believe that such studies were dangerous and improper for a girl. I sought to learn something of the wonderful world about me, but was assured that chemistry, and geology, and astronomy, and biology are trifling studies, weakening the mental powers, and, besides that, lead to materialism, a very dangerous precipice for a girl to stand upon.

"'So they kept me at the piano four hours a day, until now I hate the sight of one, and never play unless obliged; and they made me learn some French, and ever so many other languages. I never speak one of them now, for foreigners can not understand me, and I am sure no one else can! And they taught me to dance, and to enter and leave a room, and to entertain visitors with 'society talk,' and to copy engravings indifferently well (*that* was said to be drawing), and the art of using cosmetics and arranging my hair, and dressing fashionably, and walking on my toes, and not stepping on another lady's train, and how to 'cut' unfashionable acquaintances! I was not allowed to walk out for fear of making my feet large, nor to go out unless veiled, even in a carriage, and was kept indoors most of the time, that I might learn to be a little lady, and not permitted to eat much, lest I should grow plump and unrefined.

"'I believe they did try to teach me spelling and reading, but I know very little of either; and I can write a beautiful hand, for *that* is really a necessary accomplishment. We had lectures on logic, and metaphysics, and rhetoric; and they made us write compositions, (but another girl wrote mine for me—she was poor, and I paid her for them; and she wrote her own in the morning, when she was fresh, and mine in the evening, when she was tired; so we never got found out.) Well, they taught me so many things at school that I had a headache all the time, and never could remember anything from one lesson to another; so now I have quite forgotten all, and I'm sure it would be of no use if I could remember.

"Then, when I had finished and gone home, ma said I should have a good time, and take a long rest after so much hard work. So now I never open any book but a novel; and, indeed, I never get time to. For in the morning I am tired, and have a headache, and I try to sleep it off; and that makes breakfast come so late, that by the time ma and I get dressed and out for a ride, we can only do a little shopping or make a few calls, and then we must hurry home again to dine with pa. So I never get time to walk, and I am sure it is not my fault; and I can not walk a quarter of a mile if I try, for I have never been used to it, and I get all tired out in five minutes.

"In the evenings I always enjoy myself, for I go to the theatre or opera with pa and ma, or one of my beaux, or else two or three young gentlemen call on us, and tell us the latest society gossip. *They* never find any fault with me; they think me very pretty, and they laugh at my nonsense just as if it were real wit, and they never correct any of my blunders (though I'm sure I often make them), and they never bore me with good advice about studying for the improvement of my mind.

"Aunt Patty does! Oh, how she teases me! I should be happy if it wasn't for her; for now I am so used to having a headache every day that I don't know how I would feel without it; and ma lets me do just as I please, and enjoy myself in my own way. But Aunt Patty thinks it her bounden duty to keep watch over her brother's orphan child, (you know my own father died of consumption when I was little, and pa is my step-father); and I guess I plague auntie about as much as she does me.

"For you must know that Aunt Patty is an out-and-out strong-minded woman, and she spends all her time talking to other people about going to work, and supporting themselves by their own exertions; and she is especially eager to set all the girls at work at something. She says

I ought to study, since I have plenty of money to live on, and get to be a very learned woman, and assist in the improvement of my sex. Then she says every girl, even those just like me, ought to live away from home three or four years, just to know what the world is like, and try to find some sphere of usefulness for herself

Ah! I am afraid my greatest usefulness will be in calling out the Christian charity of other people towards my weaknesses of mind and body! But if I hint this to Aunt Patty, she goes off in a tirade against girls, and says they are all just like me—and that we are all good for nothing; and the worst of it is, we all marry if we can, and in a few years die, leaving some little children and a young widowed husband, and soon the country will be depopulated.

"Now, this is not fair! Aunt Patty is very one-sided in her judgment. You will find a few girls like me in cities and country villages, but only a few. Wherever I go in summer journeyings, I see nice, industrious girls; whether I travel north, south, east or west—and we go wherever other people go—I find so many bright, pretty girls hard at work—most of them too hard at it for their own health or improvement.

"*I* don't see that the mere fact of earning a living makes girls any better, or that their health is improved by it. Look at those poor girls in shops—how pale, and tired, and half-sick they look! And sometimes they are as nervous as ever I am; and once I saw a shop girl faint dead away behind the counter, and the girl who was waiting on me said that the poor creature had been getting weaker every day since she began the business. So you see it's not hard work that makes girls healthy and strong.

"As for me, I am just as I am! I might be much worse, and I would have been far better if my parents and the customs of society had not gone against nature from the moment I drew breath, and before. My parents are rich and can afford to 'kill me with kindness;' yes, that is what ails me; instead of having been drowned at birth, like the happy little Chinese girl, I must be, all my brief life, murdered by inches!"

In conclusion, the young lady cast a reproachful look at me from her large, bright eyes, and with a hysterical sob—as of one who regretted not having been permitted to enjoy the fullness of life—grandly swept her heavy train from my sanctum, and departed.

While I, sighing, sat mournful—writhing under the terrible question—

Do we murder our daughters?

ABUSES OF THE EYE.

BY DR. W. A. ALCOTT.

Light.—To those who have not sufficiently considered that the "light of the body is the eye," the direction to expose this organ as much as possible to the light of day, may seem almost superfluous. But we very much mistake if there are not hundreds among us who, though they know that the eye is adapted to the light, and light to the eye, have never yet made the very rational and practical inference, that the eye can not attain to perfection without a daily full supply of this natural and healthful stimulus. Confinement or seclusion from light is at least as injurious to man as to plants; and one of the greatest mistakes made in civilized life is the almost universal disregard of this important principle. He who would improve his eyesight to the highest possible pitch, must be as much as he can in the pure, uncontaminated light of heaven.

But is not the glare of the sun's light injurious? we shall probably be asked. No doubt it may be, in some circumstances. The bad eyesight and weak eyes of the Russians, and several other northern nations, has been usually attributed to their exposure to the brightness of the sun, reflected, for so many months of the year, from the snow and ice with which their country is carpeted. But even in Russia there is much room for doubt whether the strong light of the sun would be injurious, were it not *reflected*, especially when it is recollected that the eyelids, like curtains, are interposed between the eyes and the direct rays of the sun, so that the latter seldom annoy us, except perhaps for a little while morning and evening; and then they are by no means very powerful. We do not believe any fears need be entertained from excess of light in case of the healthy eye, except when the light is reflected, as from snow, white walls, marble tables, etc., except perhaps in the case of fireplaces.

In order to have the eyes brought sufficiently into contact with the light, in accordance with the intentions of the Creator, we must be abroad a considerable part of our time, when we are healthy, unprotected by umbrellas, parasols, or covered carriages, and even without very broad brims to our hats and bonnets. We must, moreover, have all the rooms we occupy well lighted. We must also rise early enough in the morning to avail ourselves of the light of the sun as soon as it rises.

How much there is of practical error among us in the construction of our rooms! Complaints have been made of late in regard to school rooms, that they were faulty in many respects; and, among the rest, that they were almost universally poorly lighted. But it is not our school houses alone which are faulty; it is our churches, our shops, our factories, and, above all, our dwelling houses. We say *above all*, and we mean what we say. We spend but a few hours in the church, and that for one day only in the week; our children spend but six hours in a day in a school room, for about five days in the week; and, as for our shops and factories, though we spend a greater number of our hours there than our children do in the school room, yet we do not, as a general fact, eat and drink and sleep there. It is our dwellings which, above all other buildings, need attention with reference to being properly lighted. Not only our sitting rooms and our parlors, but all our rooms, and even our sleeping chambers, should be so constructed as to have free access to the light as possible. Indeed, it has for some time past been enjoined by most of our teachers and writers on health, that sleeping rooms should be well lighted—not indeed for the benefit of the eye itself while we sleep, but for other reasons.

We have alluded to the evils of strong light reflected from the earth's surface, or from anything which is situated so near the earth's surface that the reflected rays, instead of falling upon the natural curtain of the eyes—the eyelids—fall directly upon the eyes themselves. It is in this view that we have recommended placing all artificial lights—our lamps, candles, etc.—so that they may not shine directly upon the eye, but, like the sun, upon the upper surface of the eyelids. But we go much farther still in this matter. We believe that they who would improve the eyesight, in the highest possible degree, should not only avoid strongly reflected light, but, if possible, almost all reflection. We would not, indeed, have everything upon the earth's surface painted as black as jet, lest a single reflected ray should reach the eye; nor would we even paint our floors and our walls black. We would follow out, as much as possible, the indications of the Creator. He has covered the greater part of the solid world for the year—and, indeed, the best portion for man to inhabit, for nearly the whole of it—with that "living green," which of all colors contains the best admixture of light and shade for the eye. And even the mighty ocean, designed, we believe, in part, at least, to be the highway of nations, has a deep blue covering. Let these indications, we again say, of the Almighty Creator of the universe be followed out and regarded, and we shall not find the eye resting so often upon bright or polished surfaces as now. There will be less of light colored clothing among us; fewer white walls in our rooms; darker floors—we do not say filthier ones, for that is quite another thing—plainer carpets, and less of light colored or brightly polished furniture. There will be more ink used by printers, and by everybody else; so much more that it will not then be difficult, we had almost said, to determine whether a sheet of paper or a book has really been printed or written over, or whether it is still a blank.

One of the evils of cities and city life is more than indicated by the preceding remarks. Not only does the eye of the citizen rest on substances too light colored while in the dwelling, the school house, the study, the shop, the factory, and the church, but elsewhere. If he goes out, in one of our cities, the relief of even a garden is denied him. All is naked pavements and sidewalks and walls, and he is too closely occupied to go beyond these for relief. Whereas, if he is to be shut up to improper objects the rest of the time, he ought at least to have his eye rest on better things in his walk abroad. The least which can safely be done is to have well cultivated gardens, in which he can ramble; and well cultivated fields and choice grounds are almost equally indispensable.

When will mankind understand the importance of verdure to the eye, to say nothing of its effects on general health and happiness? Until they do, not only will the manufacture of spectacles and eye waters continue to increase, but the manufacture of a thousand other things, which, while they afford present relief only, seem to encourage, or at least to license, a still farther deviation from the path which has been marked out to us by the Creator.

BOSTON CRACKERS.—One quart of yeast, one quart of water and one pound of flour; mix well and let stand for twelve hours, then add a cupful of butter and a teaspoonful of saleratus; knead thoroughly, and let stand again another twelve hours; after which the preparation is ready for baking.

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Physio-Medical Journal

AND

REFORM ADVOCATE.

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PHYSIO-MEDICALISM.—ITS HISTORY.

No. III.

IN THE March number of this journal we spoke of some of the untenable positions taken by Dr. Thomson, of the opposition he had to contend with in his practice, of his indictment for murder in the first degree, of the brutal treatment he received at the hands of his enemies while he was a prisoner, of his thorough vindication and acquittal by the testimony of the prosecuting witnesses, of the favorable consideration he received at the hands of Drs. Rush, Barton and others who stood at the head of the Allopathic profession, of the proof he gave that he was the original discoverer of the therepeutical qualities of certain remedies, and the grant made to him by Government of letters patent by which he was most triumphantly sustained in every claim he made up to this time. But now he lost a "golden opportunity" of immortalizing his name by not proving himself the greatest philanthropist, as well as the greatest benefactor of the age in which he lived. When he obtained his patent he began a systematic course of monopoly which betrayed more selfishness than his friends were prepared to witness. He published two small books—Narrative and Guide to Health—which he sold for twenty dollars, including the right to use his medicines in one family only for each right-holder, and he forbid all persons from using his remedies unless they first obtained a family right. He established agencies in all the principal cities, and fixed the price of medicines, and forbid his agents to sell at any other price, and he strenuously objected to the introduction of any new remedies into the materia medica. He forbid any person from using his name in connection with any medical depot or any publication without first obtaining his permission. When he failed in obtaining this monopoly he called a convention of the New England Branch of the United States Thomsonian Friendly Botanic Society, which met at Providence, R. I., in November, 1837. At that convention he delivered an address in which he enumerated many grievances which he said were more intolerable to his feelings than that he had received in prison from the hands of his enemies. He then defined his position at some length in the following words:

"Having this good opportunity, I will ask this assembly what is meant by improvements? If I correctly understand the term, it means something better than the article already in use. Is it pretended by any one that he can procure better crude articles, or can have better articles cultivated for him than I can? If he can not, so far he has nothing like improvement. And for a better understanding of the subject, I will recapitulate my rule of practice as it is laid down in the six numbers. Has any one a better article than No. 1, for cleansing the stomach and dislodging its contents? If he has, place it as No. 1 in the Botanic practice, and throw my No. 1 aside, for it becomes useless, and let him have the credit for it. Has any one a better article than my No. 2, for raising and retaining the internal heat? If so, let him place it as No. 2 in your medical practice, for it must necessarily be an actual improvement, and my No. 2 should be laid aside. Has any one better articles than what is comprised under the head of my No. 3, for scouring or subduing canker? If so, he has an improvement, for he has something better than I have discovered, and it must take the place of my No. 3. But if nothing is known better than I have discovered, my system stands of itself without improvements, for no one produces better articles, or betters the condition of the articles. I think you will perceive, at a single glance, that it will not answer for me to allow anything mixed with my medicines to be an improvement, for if it may be that my medicine effects a cure for the other articles to get the credit, or it may be for the other articles to kill, and my name to bear the burden of blame. The three numbers that I have enumerated to you will remove disease in all its various forms and indications, and Nos. 4, 5 and 6 are to be used as restoratives. Can any one produce better articles than I have laid down in these last three numbers for the objects for which they are specified? If so, let mine be excluded and others substituted in their place. If no one produces better articles, mine stand without competition, and until the requisitions herein contained are complied with, it is unnecessary for me to say more about improvements. But I will call upon this convention to aid and assist me wholly in keeping my system and medicine pure and unadulterated, that we may transmit to posterity that blessing which all who know it have acknowleged it to be. But if there are any here who can not assist me entirely, let them join with the trespassers and help them, as I wish to retain my medicine strictly my own, and if cures are performed by my medicine, I wish the medicine to have the credit. I do not want the credit of any spurious medicine, should it kill or cure; and I wish my name withdrawn from all which is not truly Thomsonian, for I will no longer furnish them with my name and celebrity to cloak their impositions. I wish, furthermore, to have this convention to consider as a subject, and come to some conclusion, what is meant by the term 'Thomsonian,' for, if I may judge by the acts of individuals, the term or name is common property, as others make free to use it as I can myself, but with what right I shall leave for this convention to determine."

From the foregoing quotation it will be seen that as soon as Thomson got power, he inaugurated a system of monopoly very similar to the one he so much abhored, and which he had spent the greater part of his life to put down. He even went so far as to forbid any one to use his name in connection with any medical journal or medical college without his special permission. He went further than this, and opposed the establishment of medical colleges for instruction in minute anatomy and other kindred branches of medical science. This course brought him into a state of antagonism with many of the most talented and zealous workers in the reformation, and gave many of the enemies of his practice an opportunity to do the cause a great injury. In viewing the inconsistencies just referred to, we may feel much surprise at first; but when we compare him with the Pilgrims who left their homes and risked their all to escape from religious intolerance, and then when they procured freedom, they persecuted the Quakers with great violence; or when we contemplate Luther standing before his inquisitors with a fearlessness and zeal commanding the admiration of the civilized world, and afterwards exhibiting the same spirit which he had risked his life to oppose, we see that in Thomson's life history was but repeating itself. He lived to see the system he advocated flourish in many parts of the country, and to enjoy the pecuniary reward of his labors, and died October 4, 1843, in the latter part of his seventy-fifth year of age. It has been said that Thomson "planted the tree of medical reform," but it did not die with him, but was watered by many of whom we shall speak in a future number. C.

DIOSCOREA VILLOSA—SOME OF ITS USES.

BY Z. HOCKER, M. D.

DIOSCOREA has been a remedy of much value with Physio-Medicalists for a number of years. Its curative power over bilious colic has been so marked and efficient in domestic practice, as to receive the sobriquet, "colic root," indicating its medicinal properties and application. Paine, in his "New School Remedies," in speaking of dioscorine, says that wherever there is pain, the result of exalted nerve action, dioscorine will give relief; and that its power to relieve bilious colic is from the fact that this disease is neuralgia of the umbilical plexus of the sympathetic nerve.

In my experience with this agent I have found its remedial tendency to be to the neurilemma and its invested nerve; that neuritis will invariably yield to its use. I have not noticed that its influence is directed with preference to this class of tissue in any one part of the system; but from the fact that the sciatic nerve is more frequently affected, or that the inflammatory condition is more easily diagnosed in this nerve than most others, from its position and size, I have had greater opportunities of testing the curative properties of dioscorea in inflammation of it, than nervous structure of other parts of the body. In my locality, inflammation of the sciatic nerve is of very common occurrence, and quite annoying to the one afflicted, and quite as perplexing to the physician. Indeed, so far as I know, it has been classed among the incurable maladies by those who do not know the power of "irregular remedies." One of this class of physicians—who aspires to the leadership among his school-men in this vicinity—said to one patient, who had suffered for two years with this disease, the last one of which he was unable to sit for one moment, that "God Almighty would have to change his laws before he could be cured."

This disease is generally, though erroneously, diagnosed sciatica when affecting this nerve. The more prominent symptoms are, a dull aching, or rather sore feeling, in the upper and posterior part of the hip, frequently extending some distance along the course of the descending nerve; however, the greater suffering is in the parts in which the nerve terminates. The sensations experienced are, numbness, tingling and pain, at times very severe, remitting more or less, but never entirely free from the rending, darting, tingling pain. Some have compared their suffering to that of large claws penetrating the sole of the foot to the bone, then with a jerk they are forced backward and up the posterior part of the leg, lacerating the tendons of the foot and ankle, and the muscles of the leg and thigh. Like a flash the limb is seething, which slowly diminishes, until the suffering is so mild, as compared with the intensity of a few moments before, as to be almost pleasurable. This comparative ease is of but short duration, for the same round of suffering is to be repeated again and again, mitigated at times by rest in a position giving the least pressure on the inflamed portion of the nerve.

Dioscorea will cure this form of disease if properly used. It does not give immediate relief, as opium and many other dangerous narcotics sometimes do, but gradually and surely relieves the inflammation and restores the tissues to their normal state. Some patients will be much improved in from six to eight days, while others may require from fifteen to twenty days before any very perceptible relief is obtained. It is better to continue the use of the drug two or three months, though there may be but little or no pain after the first month or six weeks of its use, that there may be no relapse, which is likely to follow the too early disuse of the medicine.

My experience has been with the fluid extract and dioscorine, both of which are reliable articles if properly prepared. The dioscorine should be thoroughly triturated with nine parts sugar to one of the drug before use.

The following are my usual prescriptions:

℞
Dioscorine, gr. v.
Sacc. alb., " xlv.
Triturate.
Fiat chartulas dividedus, x.
Sig: One powder each fourth hour during the day.

℞
Ext. Dioscorea Villosa, f℥ j.
Glycerine, f℥ ij.
Ft. Misce.
Sig: One teaspoonful each fourth hour during the day.

Idiopathic singultus is quickly relieved with dioscorea.

A NECESSITY FOR A HIGHER MEDICAL EDUCATION.

There seems to be a kind of mania among the different schools of medicine, and, indeed, among different branches of the same school, to gain popularity by becoming exceedingly numerous. To this end medical colleges and institutions of various kinds are being established all over the land for the purpose of receiving and instructing those who might attend in the theories and practices of medicine, and promulgating to them the peculiar tenets of the different schools. And, as students seem to be staple articles, and strictly necessary in order to establish and perpetuate institutions of this kind, there is a desperate effort upon the part of practitioners, in behalf of their favorite college, or their peculiar school of medicine, to gain the favor of those who contemplate entering the profession, and to hold out inducements to others to pursue a like course. Young gentlemen, or old ones, as the case may be, must be induced to shape up their minds for the study of physic. Now this is all right, providing we keep in view a few things, which I regard as strictly necessary in order to the preservation of the dignity of our noble calling.

A business or profession is made honorable and trustworthy, in the estimation of all intelligent persons, just in proportion to the amount of *brains* and good *morals* it possesses, and not so much because of its boasted numbers. We should not, therefore, in our eagerness to maintain and build up the profession, lose sight of every other object than that of simply increasing our number. No person who does not possess a fair degree of natural ability should ever be induced to commence such a stupendous task as that of trying to comprehend and reduce to practice the science of medicine. He who is thus unfortunate will never even approximate to that position that should be attained by the safe, judicious practitioner. The morals of the medical man should be of such a nature as not to be gainsayed. He should be zealous for the right, and not easily led astray. I apprehend that there is no business or profession in which there are more inducements held out to lead men astray, than are found in the practice of physic. The man, therefore, who is immorally inclined, should have no place in medicine.

In point of sacredness, the profession stands second only to the ministry. It is in the physician that suffering humanity confides. To him, alone, are the most profound secrets divulged. Into his hands are placed, as it were, the lives of our nearest and dearest friends. To him we look for aid in the saddest and most trying hours of our lives. The eyes of anxious friends are fixed upon him, as he stands by the bedside of a dear friend or relative, supposed to be in a critical condition. Every expression of his countenance is noted with the closest scrutiny, as he is about to lay before them the conditions and probable results in the case. The gentleman or lady who would not prove true to the trust confided in him or her in an hour like this, is not worthy of a place in civil and genteel society, much less the title of "Doctor in Medicine."

But what I wish to speak of more particularly in this communication, is the discipline or preparation that should be undergone by the man who contemplates entering the ranks of the medical profession. And just here is where the great mistake is being made every day. Filled with anxiety to have a large class at the opening of the next session, the physician sets out for a student; and without stopping to consider whether or not the person solicited is a fit subject for the profession, some one is picked up whose life, it may be, has been an entire failure in everything he has undertaken, and who does not possess a single qualification that is essential in making him an honorable and successful physician. And to make the matter still worse, these very persons are hurried off to lectures without a single week's reading or preparation. The great importance of a thorough drill or a rigid course of instruction in the office of some well-read and judicious practitioner, is entirely lost sight of. They know nothing of anatomy, physiology, chemistry, therapeutics, etc. They have never been made to realize the magnitude of the work they are about commencing, and hence they are not prepared for the task. They enter upon the work blindly, and after attending their first course, if they do not become thoroughly disgusted with the whole affair and abandon it entirely, they go out into the world as charlatans, to practice a deception upon the people. And in this way thousands of precious lives have been sacrificed upon the altar of ignorance. No wonder that so many people have lost confidence in the doctor! No wonder that doctors, so many of them, are branded as quacks! No wonder that so many thinking young men, who would be an honor to the profession, find no attractions in the study! It is a shame that such a noble and honorable professsion should be made dishonorable by such unworthies as these. I charge it upon the profession that they are responsible for this state of affairs. J. E. CANADAY.

Frankton, Ind.

PRIORITY OF PUBLICATION.

Editors Physio-Medical Journal:

THE following is an extract from an article written by Dr. A. G. Beebe, and published in *The United States Medical Investigator*—Homoeopathic—June 1, 1873:

"It is now nearly six years since I first suggested the theory that cancer was due not to any blood poisoning, but to a lowering of the vitality of the tissues, and was consequently rather a disease of the nervous system than the blood.

"In that view I was entirely alone, so far as I was then or am yet aware. Dr. G. D. Beebe, to whom I broached the theory, thought I was making a hobby of the nervous system, but I have been pleased to observe that he has since that time adopted the theory I then urged. Within the year past, certain English writers, or one at least, has advanced views looking in the same direction, so that it seems clear the time is not far distant when the long dominant theory of the haematic origin of cancer will be consigned to the realms of the past, exploded."

Permit me to call your attention to the article I presented to the P. M. Association of Indiana in May, 1874—"*The Nervous System.—Through it Disease is Produced.—Through it Health is Restored.*"

I published a pamphlet in 1872 which contains the following, and is copyrighted:

"A similar condition of the nerves of every part is transmitted from parent to child. Every form of disease is manifested in the same organ or part in which it existed in the parent. Disease is only transmitted through the nervous system. Blood poison is not transmitted, but a *condition* favoring the development of a particular form of disease."

You will see by this that I did not *suggest* the theory, but published it, and the pamphlets were sent to Cincinnati, Philadelphia and New York the same year.

I desire to give due credit to physicians of all schools for discoveries in the science of medicine, but shall insist on the evidence of *priority of publication.*

Occupying, as we do, the only tenable position upon which to base a system of medicine, we are enabled to grasp that which is beyond the reach of those who are following that phantom, "*similia.*"

ALBERT CHURCHILL, M. D.

Nevada, Missouri.

A NOTE from Prof. D. McCarthy, of Dayton, Ohio, apprises us of the fact that on the 3d of March he sustained a compound comminuted fracture of the left tibia, which has incapacitated him from business since. We are very sorry to learn of his misfortune, but pleased to know from his own pen that he is getting along quite well.

LEAD POISONING.

THERE are but few persons who do not know that there is such a thing as lead poisoning—that under certain circumstances the system may be seriously injured by lead; for who has not heard of painter's colic? Who does not know of some man who had to abandon his trade as a painter, or glazier, because it did not "agree with him," and it was even more than suspected that the lead he used in his trade poisoned his system? Still, very few persons are fully aware of the very many ways in which the system may be poisoned by lead, or who know that lead is so very poisonous as it really is. It is true that the susceptibility of the systems of different persons varies very greatly—that whilst some may use it for a long time with apparent impunity, others may be seriously poisoned by very slight contact with it. But the point we wish to make more especially is, that the use of lead, whether used internally, or applied externally, is always dangerous, and therefore it should not be used, even as a coclyrrium (eye-wash) nor a hair-dye or hair invigorator, as is too often done by some who call themselves Physio-Medicalists. We would also state in this connection, that the symptoms of lead poisoning are often overlooked, or if seen are attributed to some other cause, and hence not appreciated.

These reflections were brought about by reading some cases reported in the "New Remedies" reports of lead poisoning to the following effect: A man had colicky pain in the abdomen, always preceded by obstinate constipation, and accompanied by vomiting. He subsequently had epileptic convulsions, became violently delirious, and died. About six weeks before his death, a blue line was noticed on his gums, which is one of the prominent signs of poisoning by lead. It was ascertained that this man had twelve years previously received a bullet wound in the knee, and the bullet lodged in contact with the bone and cartilage in such a position that absorption of the lead took place, from which such serious symptoms and death followed.

In the same journal is a report of thirty cases of lead poisoning, from which it appears that each individual was affected first in the limb exposed by contact with the lead, and hence the conclusion that the paralysis, change of sensibility, etc., are the result of the direct absorption of the poison through the skin. It is suggested that by applying an artificial protection to the skin of lead-workers, they may be fortified against and indemnified from the serious and often fatal results of lead poisoning.

M. Bouchat mentions the case of an infant which was seized with violent colic and died in a few days with all the usual symptoms of lead poisoning, which was occasioned by the child nursing from the breast of its mother, who had used a quack remedy containing lead upon the breast for cracked nipples, and she had neglected to wash the nipples each time before putting the child to the breast.

Another somewhat remarkable case is reported in the *British Medical Journal*, in which twenty-six persons were suddenly seized, and two of them died. It was first supposed that there was an epidemic of typhoid fever; but, from the progress of the symptoms, the medical men of the place soon discovered that the symptoms were caused by poisonous doses of lead. An inquiry showed that the lead pipes through which the water used by these people passed, had been in use for twenty years without any change whatever. At length the true cause of the trouble was found to be in the brine in which the butter was preserved, of which these people had eaten. On testing the brine it was found to contain, amongst other things, saltpetre, acetate of soda, and chloride of lead. The action of the lead on the chloride of sodium had produced a most active poison, which had caused such destructive effects. Upon a post-mortem inspection it was found that the intestines, the liver, and even the brain gave very unmistakable evidences of lead poisoning.

Several cases of poisoning have been reported where persons have been employed at work in horse-hair which had been colored with litharge, which is a preparation of lead.

We have made this article much longer than was at first intended; but we hope the importance of the subject, and the great necessity for more general information amongst the people, will serve as an apology for its great length.

C.

NEW MODE OF TAXIS FOR STRANGULATED HERNIA.

Prof. Irich, in the *Baltimore Physician and Surgeon*, gives an account of the successful treatment of the above named difficulty, which we think might be worthy of a trial, excepting the medical treatment which of course is not physio-medical, and therefore we could not approve of because it is dangerous. "Mr. K., æt. 63 years, private watchman at a steamship wharf, had been suffering from a right inguinal hernia about two years, for which he wore no truss. He was suddenly seized with violent symptoms of strangulation at 4 A. M., December 18, 1874, while at his post. Finding himself unable to procure assistance he was obliged to lie down on the wharf, where he was found three hours later in a state of semi-unconsciousness produced by pain and cold. He was removed to his home, and my friend, Dr. R. W. Mansfield, was called in to reduce the hernia. He administered chloroform and practiced the taxis, assisted by two neighbors, until he was completely exhausted. I was then called in consultation, and after the administration of chloroform to a complete state of relaxation, the taxis in the usual method was practiced by us, assisted by two men, as long as we deemed it safe. All our efforts having failed we prescribed an opiate, and the patient being still very cold ordered warm fomentations to the hernia, and agreed to meet again at 2 o'clock P. M. of the same day. Having met according to appointment, chloroform was once more administered, and the taxis tried with the same assistance as before, without producing the slightest change in the hernial tumor. The patient having vomited several times, there seemed to be no other alternative than an operation. Knowing, however, the fearful death rate after that operation, especially in persons of such advanced age (63 years), I cast about for other expedients that might avert our patient's impending doom.

Knowing that contraction as well as tumefaction in any part of the body can be most readily overcome by a gentle but continued force if applied for a sufficient length of time, while it could resist a much greater force applied intermittingly, it occurred to me that if we could put the patient's body in such a position as to cause the intestines to gravitate towards the chest, we would apply just such a gentle, continuous force as would be most likely to cause relaxation of the inguinal ring. Acting upon this theory, a couple of short boards were laid against the side of the bed, and secured in such a position as to form an inclined plane at an angle of 45 degrees with the floor. These boards were then covered by a mattress and the patient placed upon it, with his legs resting upon the bed and his head upon a pillow on the floor. Reaction being now sufficiently established, we ordered an ice-bladder to the ring, and arranged for another meeting a few hours later for the purpose of operating. The patient had been in this position a little over an hour when we received the joyous tidings that the tumor had disappeared, and upon an examination the hernia was found to be completely reduced by the force of gravity. Although the ice applied to the inguinal ring may have assisted in diminishing the tumefaction of the parts, I have used it too frequently, without success to former cases, to attribute much of the result to its influence.

The *modus operandi* of this postural taxis seems to be as follows:

1. In placing the patient in this position we remove all pressure against the inguinal opening from the interior of the abdomen.

2. We make gentle traction upon both ends of the protruding intestine from the inside of the abdomen.

3. The whole weight of the hernial tumor is brought to bear upon the inguinal ring.

4. The natural elasticity of all the coverings of the hernia will have a tendency to assist in forcing the contents of the sack back into the abdominal cavity.

Since the recovery of this patient an additional expedient has suggested itself to my mind, which I intend to try on the next case of strangulated hernia that may present itself. It consists in placing a thin bag of fine sand of a suitable shape upon the tumor, so as to apply as much pressure externally as the patient may be able to bear. I conclude with the most earnest request to all my professional brethren, to give this mode of taxis a trial, and report their failures, as well as successes, so that we may soon ascertain the true value of this operation." We have treated many cases of strangulated hernia, and all of them successfully, except one, and it was a double strangulated, which occurred in a lady sixty-seven years old, and in which case the strangulation took place twenty hours before we saw the case. One of the sacks was liberated but the other could not be, and as an operation was positively refused by the patient, she died between the fourth and fifth day. Our treatment has always consisted in using thorough relaxation before making any taxis or manipulation with a view of reducing the hernia or overcoming the strangulation. We first give lobelia by injection and by the stomach, then we immerse cloths in a warm infusion of lobelia and foment the surface over the region of the hernia at the same time that we are giving the medicine internally in manner before indicated. After continuing this treatment for an hour, more or less, depending upon the amount of relaxation which may have been secured, we then place the patient upon the back with the hips elevated by bed clothing or pillows, and by taxis succeed usually in reducing the hernia in a very short time. We have no doubt, however, but that the degree of elevation as described by Prof. Irick would add considerable towards the success of the treatment. C.

PHYTOLACCA DECANDRIA (POKE).

Is PHYTOLACCA a Physio-Medical remedy? This question has been frequently asked, but no definite conclusion as to a correct answer has yet been reached. We have a definite rule by which we may determine all such questions as this, if we do but persevere in its application. A medical agent which may be used to any desirable or necessary extent without injury to any tissue of the system, is sanative, or Physio-Medical in its character; while an agent which can not be freely used till the desirable amount of its characteristic impression is made, without injury to some part of the system, is not sanative, but poisonous in character. For example: Lobelia may be given in large quantities and repeated at short intervals till the system is completely relaxed and all the purposes of relaxation secured, without the slightest injury to the patient. Lobelia is, therefore, a Physio-Medical remedy. Opium, also, has power to relax the tissues and relieve pain, but if the patient is seriously ill and suffering intensely, only a limited amount of this agent can be given. Its administration must cease, though the patient is still suffering, because a continuation would not only injure the patient but destroy his life; therefore opium is poisonous and not sanative in character. Also, when stimulation is necessary, a sanative stimulant may be used in large or small quantities, in accordance with the demands of the case, and continued as long as stimulation is indicated, without doing injury to the patient. But the use of sanative agents may be abused. First, they may be used in such great quantities that the tissues may be carried beyond the desired condition. If stimulation is needed to arouse the tissues to action, and active stimulants uncombined with relaxation are used in great excess of the demand, the condition of the tissues will be carried up to, and beyond the standard of health, so that over-stimulation will result. Second, sanative agents may be continued after the necessity for their use has passed away, which constitutes a misapplication, or they may be misapplied from the first. For example, suppose the system is in a too languid and lax condition, then the most innocent means of relaxation without stimulation will increase rather than abate the evil. In this way all classes of agents may be inappropriately used and do injury to the system. But these facts do not furnish an argument against the character of the agents. They only show that our means must be appropriately applied if we would avoid doing mischief. Yet the evils which follow the misapplication of sanative agents are very slight and mild when compared with the mischief which is wrought by poisons, even though they be administered with great precision by the most skillful men in their profession, for it is the nature of poisons to do injury by virtue of the quality of their action without regard to any condition that may exist in the system. With these facts before us we may, by careful investigation, be able to place Phytolacca in its proper place.

The berries of this plant are well known to be entirely innocent, so that not only birds and small animals feed on them, but man may also eat of them freely with perfect safety. I once knew a man who was very fond of them, and did not hesitate to fill himself with ripe poke berries whenever he could get them. But the character of the root is not so clearly established, the testimony concerning it being somewhat contradictory. This, however, may have arisen in consequence of the fact that much of its acrid and harsh properties are dissipated in drying, as is the case with Arum Trifillum. For myself I will say that I have always been too cautious to use any agent that is reputed to possess poisonous properties, and consequently have not used the root of Phytolacca, but I once saw two little girls under the influence of the green root which they had eaten. About two hours after eating it they were seized with nausea and vomiting, which occurred at intervals of thirty or forty minutes for the space of three hours. The surface was relaxed and perspiring, but warm, and there was no distress except during emesis, which was pretty thorough, and lasted about half a minute each time. An infusion of composition and lobelia was given till emesis occurred from its use, and there was no further trouble with the cases. The children slept till morning and were well the next day. I saw no dangerous symptoms in these cases; but cases have been reported in which the symptoms were said to be of a suspicious character. The following report, from *The American Practitioner*, is an example:

"Three children, aged respectively nine, six and four years, were recently poisoned by eating poke root. They ate it at 11.30 A. M., took a hearty dinner at 12 M., and in an hour commenced purging and vomiting. At 4.30 P. M., when seen by the physician, the purging had ceased, but the vomiting continued at intervals of twenty to thirty minutes. The pupils were widely dilated, pulse rapid and very feeble, inspiration short and sighing. When roused from their narcotism they complained of intense epigastric pain, great thirst and chilliness. The treatment consisted of hot baths, sinipisms and frequent small doses of brandy. The patients all recovered, although vomiting continued during the night and they complained of vertigo and epigastric tenderness a day or two longer."

We ask that the profession generally report whatever may have come under their observation in reference to this agent, so that we may be able to establish fully its character. The fluid extract of Phytolacca root is now gaining a reputation in the treatment of mammitis, and it is therefore important that we ascertain definitely what its properties are. G. N. DAVIDSON.

NO. 2, VOL. XXXIX of the *Physio-Medical Recorder*, of the current year, is on our table. It contains thirteen original and selected articles of high tone and applicability, reminding one forcibly that when a system of medicine is based upon the underlying principles of truth its advances are ever in the light of the law of perfection.

We see in the "Editor's Chip Basket" that two of the professors of the Physio-Medical Institute have resigned their positions in the faculty, viz: Profs. Needham and Dryer, the latter, we are sorry to learn, "deemed his health failing—his lungs being weak and easily irritated," sufficiently to warrant his resignation.

PHYSIO-MEDICALISM AND THE PEOPLE.

WHEN we take a retrospective view of the suffering, disease and death entailed upon mankind by the poisons and non-physiological treatment of the sick by the so-called regular (?) doctors, we are at once impressed with the idea that all rational persons would hail with joy the introduction of anything that would warrant their safety and immunity from the same. And when we consider that there are hundreds and thousands of persons in our land who can and do date their ill health, their dilapidated condition, their scars and ulcers, their loosened teeth and deformed limbs, from a time when they took a few doses of calomel to remove some slight difficulty; or had a "spell of fever," during which they received the full round of mercurialization and narcotization, so potent in "skillful hands" for the suppression of fever, as such a course "suddenly and rapidly extinguishes a great portion of the vitality of the system,"—indeed, there are but few persons who will not admit that a large proportion of the chronic troubles with which so many are afflicted, had their origin either directly or indirectly from the "Sampsons of the materia medica." Many are, as Chapman expressed it, "in the last stages of a miserable existence, emaciated to skeletons, with ulcerated throats and rotten jaws," and all because of a blind folly in using these destructive agencies as medicines. Some are lame, blind, or otherwise deficient, from the effects of "*fever falling*" in this, that or the other locality—so they have been informed by the doctor.

When we take into consideration these things—which are admitted to be the frequent results of the administration of poisons as medicines, even by those who use them—we are led to wonder at the masses of mankind for their continued use of them; and even doubt the philanthropy or Christianity of those men who, in the full light of the results, continue to administer the same, and thereby deform, mutilate, and even destroy the image of the Creator.

And yet many, instead of resorting to the more simple and rational methods of relief from their afflictions, still continue to play the young robin, and swallow the destructive agent, while the doctor acts the part of the old bird. Indeed, to the Physio-Medicalist, it most certainly looks as though many have "blinded their eyes and hardened their hearts, lest they should see with their eyes and understand with their hearts, and he should heal them."

Where, in all the range of the new-school practice,has a patient come out of a "spell of sickness" with withered limbs, deformed members, or shattered constitutions? They are not to be found, at least in the Physio-Medical ranks. How long, oh! how long will it be until the great beauties of a non-poisonous medication shall permeate the masses of the people and loosen the grasp of the poison-mongers, and they walk in the light of truth and harmless medication.

A diligent and persevering work upon the part of the profession, with fidelity to truth and our fundamental principles, will accomplish the object.

Wm. A. Spurgeon, M. D.

Freetown, Ind.

A communication, with subscription, has been received from Prof. D. B. Wiggins, M. D., of Buffalo, N. Y., complimentary of the Journal and wishing it success. He says that he will give it "his influence and support as long as it teaches 'Simon pure' medieal reform." Thanks to the doctor. We hope to make the Journal such a medium of reform medicine that the profession at large may not be ashamed of it. Dr. W. is one of our older practitioners and has always been conscientious and consistent in his practice.

PHYSIO-MEDICAL CONVENTION.

The First District Physio-Medical Association of Indiana met in its Forty-first Session at the office of Z. Hockett, M. D., Anderson, Ind., on the 25th of February, 1875. Owing to the inclemency of the weather the attendance was not as large as usual. The following physicians were present: Z. Hockett, J. M. Hockett, W. P. Brickley, E. T. Brickley, W. O. Canaday, J. E. Canaday, Joseph Weeks, G. W. Potter, F. L. Stone, Ezra Bufkin, G. N. Davidson, C. C. Loder, A. J. Reeves, L. Richwine, J. D. Constable, J. M. Crismond and Jesse Leeka, the two latter being admitted to membership.

The President, W. O. Canaday, called the Convention to order, and the minutes of the last session were read by the Secretary, C. C. Loder.

Annual dues for defraying expenses were collected, and officers for the ensuing year were elected. The selections for officers being, for President, Ezra Bufkin, M. D., and Secretary, A. J. Reeves, M. D.

The subject of catarrhal fever in its varied forms was introduced and discussed at some length by various members of the Association, nasal catarrh coming in for a large share of consideration.

The Convention adjourned to meet in Muncie on the fourth Thursday in May next, when the following order of business will be considered:

1. Diarrhœa and Dysentery.
2. Pneumonitis.
3. Reading of Essays.
4. Experience in use of Remedies.
5. Miscellaneous Business.

A pleasant and profitable meeting is anticipated. It is hoped that all of our practitioners within the range of this Association will meet with them at Muncie. D.

NERVOUS FORCE.

BY DR. BROWN-SEQUARD.

[One of a series of lectures delivered at the Lowell Institute, Boston.]

[ALTHOUGH this is not the most recent utterance of thought in this department of science, and although it may lean toward views which are at present as foreign to our educated notions of truth as were the revelations of Galileo's telescope to the notions of the Priests of his day, yet it indicates the present tendency of thought —to the correlation of the forces.—Z. H.]

THE lectures I have to deliver here are on a subject which is full of interest, and which deserves more study than it has obtained. The various effects produced by nervous force are certainly, even for persons who have nothing whatever to do with medicine, full of interest, and I may say of importance. I will go further. I have no doubt that persons who have not at all engaged in the medical profession could do more perhaps than physicians, in regard to discovering certain of the peculiarities of nervous force. Physicians, unfortunately—I speak of myself as well as of others—are biased. Their bias prevents progress. They have received an education which has given them certain notions, and those notions prevent a free examination of certain questions. The unbiased minds of persons who have not studied medicine, or who, if they have studied the foundations of it, have not engaged in the practice of the profession, permit them to investigate and discover. Perhaps as a result of the lecture that I shall deliver here, it will be given to some of you to push forward discoveries in that line.

Before entering into the proper subject of this lecture, it is essential to pass in review some of the elementary questions of physiology. I shall do it very rapidly. There are two elements in the nervous system which are united together, but which are, however, absolulely distinct, the one from the other. One consists in the nerve cell, which you see presented on the board. I have made it nearly round, but it is very rarely that it is so. That cell has starting from it a number of filaments. In the spinal cord and in the brain those cells generally have one element entirely different from the others, and that element is similar to the other element we find in the nervous system; that is, fibers. There are therefore two kinds of elements in the nervous system, the fibers and the cells, with their prolongations. What becomes of those prolongations is not known, and it may perhaps remain always unknown to us in this world. It is to be feared that the power of our microscopes will remain pretty nearly what it is, and if that be the case, then we shall never know much more as regards the ramification of those fibers. But the remarkable point of which I have not yet spoken, and which you ought to keep in mind, is that the fibers of the nervous system are united with those cells. Within the nervous centers, that is, the brain and spinal cord, there is but one of these fibers united with cells. In other parts of the body there are cells which have two real fibers starting from them besides the ramifications.

Now the nervous force is produced in those elements of the nervous system. I have no need, of course, to give a definition of nervous force, or nerve force, as you will perhaps prefer to call it. It is that force which manifests itself in nervous actions. The nerve force belongs only to the elements I have described. Are there any instances in which we can find nervous force without the existence of those two elements? This question is now decided in this way. There are animals in which, and there are circumstances in man in which, the nervous tissue does not exist evidently in the way I have described, and still there is a nervous force; so that it appears that nervous force can exist without the nervous elements. There are conditions, especially in monsters, where the spinal cord, instead of being organized, is a fluid in which elements resembling those of the nervous system are not organized, and still there is nervous action, and therefore, nervous force. In some low forms there are also tissues which do not represent at all the known elements of the nervous system, but in which nevertheless, there is nervous action, and therefore nervous force. A professional friend in Paris has shown that there are certain instances of disease in man in which the nervous system is so transformed that it is hardly recognizable, and yet there is every probability that it acted, and that nervous force was manifested.

But the great question is not there. The great question is whether the boundaries of the nervous system are also the boundaries in health of that nervous force. In other words, can the nervous force spring out of the nervous system to produce some action? As regards this, I may say that there are no facts to prove it. You can easily understand that if I am right, this is a death-blow to what is called animal magnetism. But this is a point that we will debate more at length by and by. All I wish to say in this introductory lecture on this point is that there is no likelihood at all that nervous force can get away from the limits which are constituted by nervous tissue. There is no question, however, that nervous force can manifest itself outside of the boundaries of the nervous system; but it manifests itself often after having been transformed into another force. It is well known that nervous force is transformed into motor force. This I am doing at present. It is owing to motor force that I have any voice at present. This transformation into motor force takes place at every moment of our lives. Other transformations are also of great interest. You well know that there are fishes that possess an electric apparatus. In them the nerves which go to the electric apparatus are enormous. And those nerves convey nervous force, and not electricity. As soon as the nervous force is felt in that electric apparatus, electricity is evolved. Electricity is a transformation in that case, of nervous force, just as we know that heat can be transformed into electricity or electricity into heat, heat into motion, and motion into heat, &c. There are animals which are phosphorescent, and which are so under an act of their wills, so far as we can judge, and under the influence of the nervous system; so that light also can be evolved as a transformation of nervous force. There are cases of consumption in which light has come from the lungs. The fact has been pointed out by Sir Henry Marsh and other physicians. The light appears not only at the head of the patient, but it may be radiated into the room. It has been considered that the light was only a peculiar effect of the mucus that came from the lungs of the patient. It is not likely that this is the case, because mucus in greater quantity is evolved, and all sorts of mucus, from the chests of the people, every day, without any such phenomenon. I have read the history of each individual case of the kind, so far as I have been able to get it, and in every one of the cases the patients, I find, were in a terrible state of nervousness, so that I can not but believe that the production of light was, in a measure at least, owing to the transformation of nervous force.

There are great transformations also of another kind. You well know that nutrition, which implies chemical changes in our system, as well as secretion, which also requires chemical change, may take place under the influence of the nervous system. I shall show this more fully in a subsequent lecture. When this transformation occurs, it is quite evident that it is the nervous force that has been transformed into a chemical agent.

Is nervous force ever transformed into heat? There is no doubt whatever that heat is evolved from our system, and in a great measure owing to the action of nervous force; but the question is whether it goes through other transformations. This is a point which it would be very interesting to determine, but which at the present state of our knowledge is not yet ascertained.

Now that we have passed in review all those facts showing that nervous force can be transformed into the other forces of nature that we know, almost all of them, the question arises, "Can all the forces of nature be transformed into nervous force?" This is one of the greatest questions that we could undertake to consider. Unfortunately the elements we have for solving it are as yet very few. We do not know positively yet—at any rate I do not know, and I have read considerably to find if the question is solved—we do not know positively yet whether electricity can be transformed into nervous force. You can easily understand that if it were possible to have such a transformation, a great many weak people would receive manifest advantage in being galvanized. Therefore the question is of great importance. There is no doubt at all, for this has been established by a good many experimenters, that the elements of the nervous system benefit in their nutrition under the influence of electricity and galvanism; but a direct transformation of electricity into nervous force is not yet proved.

As regards light, very little is known. You well know that nervous disturbance will come from the action of light. There is no doubt whatever about it. Light is certainly a very powerful agent, and a most useful one. Indeed it is rather too much forgotten that light is almost essential to life; but we do not know if there is any direct transformation of light into nervous force. It seems to be so in the retina; but I can not employ any other phrase than the phrase "it seems to be." It would not appear to be difficult to solve the question by experiment, and a solution would be of considerable importance.

There are other forces which certainly are transformed into nervous force. There is no doubt as regards motion. Motion increases nervous force in the limb without the least doubt. What the French call *massage*, which is shampooing, pounding or kneading of the flesh, increases nervous force without doubt. But there is still some little doubt whether it is not through an improvement of nutrition, through a chemical change, that the influence takes place.

There are other forces, heat, for instance, which perhaps are transformed into nervous force. The application of heat to children is exceedingly useful to help their development. If the air they breathe is cool, and heat is applied to their limbs, but not so much to their body, they certainly grow faster. There is no question that in northern climes, children who are not well clad, and are not well cared for in regard to the heat surrounding their body, do not grow so well as children who are submitted to the influence of heat. There is one thing which, in this country especially, is most hurtful and dangerous, and that is heat applied to the lungs. It is perfectly well known that the mortality of children in this country is enormous in the summer months, and that chiefly through the influence of heat on the lungs and on the belly. Digestion and respiration are disturbed, and death comes, as you know, too frequently. More care could be easily attained in that respect, and it may be that I shall have a chance to speak of it in one of the last lectures of this course.

Some physiologists have considered that nerve force is nothing but that which many physiologists admit under the name of vital force. The theory which is most important in this respect has been put forward by M. Flourens. He considers that a spot in the medulla oblongata is the focus of vital force. There is, you know, a spot which is pierced by the matadors in Spain when they wish to kill a bull immediately. Death occurs instantly. This kind of death is a very interesting one. When we perform the experiment in the laboratory we find that the animal is so instantaneously and so effectually killed that there is no struggle whatever. The animal lies there apparently having lost every vital power, and there is certainly a great question to know what becomes of the nervous force in those cases. It seems to have been lost altogether. I say it *seems*, for if we examine a little further we find that it is only dormant. It is accumulated in certain parts of the body in immense quantity. The nervous centers have lost it almost altogether, but the nerves are quite rich in nervous force, so much so that I have kept one of those animals for nearly fifty-six days in my laboratory without any trace of putrefaction, and at a temperature which varied between 45° and 65°. The lack of putrefaction depended certainly on the long persistence of nerve force after death. There is in these cases a great mystery however. This nerve force we can detect very easily. If we galvanize a limb, we find that there is a nerve force there, and that for a long time after death. But how is it that it suddenly disappears from the nervous centers, so much that respiration, circulation and all voluntary and involuntary movements cease? To answer this question would require no little study and investigation, and the person making it would have much to find that would be interesting. We find, however, in making these experiments, that we can take away the part which has been considered as the focus of life, by employing certain simple precautions, without destroying life. At the College of Surgeons in London, in one of my lectures there, I had tried to show that death in the case referred to is immediate.

ON THE ACTION OF CANTHARIDES.

DR. CANTIERI, Clinical Assistant and Lecturer on Special Pathology in the University of Siena, has been making a very extended set of experiments with this agent upon animals, and has given his conclusions therefrom to the medical world in the July, August, September and October numbers of *Lo Sperimentale.* Although these experiments were made upon animals, and should not be regarded as a positive demonstration as to what the results would be upon man, yet they give us a sufficient reason for believing that Physio-Medicalists have not all the while been mistaken as to the deleterious tendency of this agent upon the human system. Dr. Cantieri gives his general conclusions as follows:

1. Cantharides, when introduced into the animal organism, produces changes in the mass of the blood; it destroys and corrugates the red corpuscles when brought into direct contact with them, but only corrugates them when it reaches them by absorption.

2. It diminishes the contractile force of the heart and blood-vessels, and thus reduces arterial tension; it increases the frequency and the rapidity of the beats of the heart, increases the temperature of the body, and leads to wasting and general debility—all phenomena indicating the existence of a true and special fever.

3. Cantharides induces hyperæmia and stasis in various organs; and, if applied in a large dose, true inflammation. In the course of his experiments, Dr. Cantieri met with hyperæmia of the cerebrum and of the spinal cord; in the former, softening was slight; in the latter, it reached an advanced stage, being greater in the dorsal and lumbar enlargements, especially the latter. Hence arose paralysis of the posterior limbs in dogs, in rabbits and in frogs; and in the last-named animals, reflex power was also lost.

4. Hyperæmia of the membranes of the nervous centres, produced by cantharides, is always well marked at the base of the skull in the situation of the medulla oblongata, whence probably arise, in rabbits and in dogs, great frequency of respiration, and increased rapidity of circulation with occasional intermittence.

5. Cantharides always induces hyperæmia, or even true inflammation of the uropoietic and genital apparatus, giving rise to des-

quamation or parenchpmatous nephritis, sometimes with albumen in the urine. It stimulates the sexual orgasm, and may produce abortion.

6. Cantharides administered internally produces, besides the morbid conditions already mentioned, a true gastro-enteritis, with extreme redness and ulceration of the mucous membrane of the stomach, and yellow mucous diarrhœal discharges. Occasionally, even when injected into the veins, if it do not produce ulceration, it occasions hyperæmia of the gastro-intestinal mucous membrane and frequent diarrhœa in dogs, frogs and rabbits.

WILL many of the profession give their most successful local treatment for enlarged tonsils?

ERRATA.—In the article on Priority of Publication, third line, read Jan. 1, 1873, instead of June 1, 1873.

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PHYSIO-MEDICALISM.—ITS HISTORY.

No. IV.

IN the April issue of the JOURNAL we closed with a reference to Dr. Thomson's death, and a promise that we would in this number speak of some of those who assisted Thomson in the establishment of medical reform. Time would fail us if we should attempt to name all of them. Many embraced the doctrines of reform when it cost something—when popularity and personal ease had to be sacrificed to uphold the truth. For though men and women were not burned at the stake, as were many of the early Christians for espousing the cause of their Redeemer, nor were many put into filthy prisons upon false charges, as was Thomson, yet a few were imprisoned and many suffered loss of property and reputation, which they bore with a heroism worthy of all praise. Though the Alopathic fraternity generally displayed a bigoted and persecuting spirit, which was most disgraceful, yet there were many honorable exceptions, some of which have already been referred to—Dr. Rush and Dr. Barton—but perhaps the most distinguished exception was Dr. Benj. Waterhouse, a distinguished professor of one of the most distinguished medical colleges of the United States at that day. He was the first to introduce vaccination in America, and one of the first in the medical profession who had the manhood and independence to declare the truth as soon as he plainly saw it. In a letter to Dr. Thomson, after testifying to the efficacy and safety of lobelia, and saying that he (Thomson) was the first discoverer of its remarkable medical virtues, he further says:

"That you yourself was the originator of this compound process, very extensively known under the title of *Thomsonian Practice* or *System*, I have no doubt whatever. I mean the uniting the warm bath with the thorough elimination of the whole alimentary canal. I value it and recommend it on this account. It effects, in three or four days, what we regular physicians use to occupy as many weeks. As a public teacher of the practice of physic, I have told my pupils for nearly half a century past that when they learned how to restore the long impaired organs of digestion to their pristine or natural state, they have acquired two-thirds of their profession; and on that simple principle is based the whole doctrine of my printed lectures on the pernicious effects of *smoking cigars* and the inordinate use of ardent spirits. Furthermore, the regular physician finds it sometimes necessary to make *a great change* in the human frame, or to make a very strong *counter irritation*, so as to obliterate the *morbid* or *destructive* one. This used to be done by *quicksilver*, that is, *mercury*, in its various prepations; when pushed to a *salivation* it dilapidates, if we may speak so, or dissolves the human fluids, all of which are made up of globules or round particles, on the *crasis* of which depends the vital integrity of our bodies, and of course our health and vigor. After the hazardous process of salivation, the physician may perhaps be able to say—*now I have so far* changed the morbid state of the patient that his disease is conquered, and entirely overcome by the power of the *mercury*. But then in what condition does he find the sufferer? His teeth are loosened, his joints are weakened, his healthy countenance is impaired, his voice is more feeble, and. he is more susceptible to cold, and a damp state of the weather. His original disorder is to be sure overcome, but it is paying a great price for it. Secret history conceals from public notice innumerable victims of this sort."

In another letter addressed to E. G. House, of Boston, Prof. Waterhouse used the following language:

"Anterior to 1745 the study and practice of medicine was very little variant, if any, from what *Samuel Thomson*, the *Patriarch* of the *lobelia* and *steam system*, has by great pains and labor, accumulated during more than forty-years of an industrious life. The most solid, immovable and valuable portion of our art is derived from *experience;* and the best qualification of it is *sagacity*, and the next to that is INDUSTRY—all of which the *Patriarch*, *Samuel Thomson*, possessed eminently. The scientific physician follows and copies the rules of others, and that constitutes the learned physician; but *Samuel Thomson* studies the *Book of Nature* —that is, the nature of man, and everything about him, as did the famous physicians among the ancients, and some of the best and most successful among the moderns." * * * "I rank *Samuel Thomson* among *discoverers*, and respect him as such. He has uncommon stock of *natural* knowledge, and enjoys the benefit of his discoveries and trials by the security of a *patent*. The *vast West* have been benefited by them, and they have been, in some degree, tributaries to him."

When we consider the high position which Prof. Waterhouse occupied in the Alopathic school of medicine, we must admire the candor and magnanimity shown by the sentiments quoted above. It contrasts very broadly with the spirit shown by many of the modern professors of the Alopathic school, who have attempted to exclude Physio-Medical students from enjoying their rights in public hospitals. Many of the Alopathic M. D's. became converts of the Thomsonian or P. M. faith, and did great service to the cause. Amongst many others we might name Thos. Hersey, W. K. Griffin, Humphrey Wood, of N. C., Leonard Henly, of Va., Thos. Eveleigh, of Charleston, etc. Most of these met with very determined opposition, and even unrelenting persecution, which they withstood with great heroism. The masses, attracted by the unparalleled success of those who practiced, and by the novelty of their mode of administering their remedies, flocked to the new standard by hundreds and thousands, insomuch that Alopaths were compelled to sheath their lancets and modify their use of other remedies, so that now instead of bleeding and giving mercury being the rule in almost all cases, it has become the exception. Now many Eclectics and Alopaths are trying to make the people believe their practice nearly approaches the Thomsonian or Physio-Medical. In our next we shall attempt a brief history of the Physio-Medical colleges. C.

WHAT IS DISEASE.

BY L. HUSSEY, M. D.

A RIGHT understanding of the diseased condition is indispensable to him who would correct it.

This knowldge must constitute the foundation upon which the physican may build his superstructure of systematic operations; without it his efforts will be, at least, but accidentally good.

We learn from physiology that inherent mobility is an attribute of vitalized matter, and that fibrous decay is, by natural law, an unavoidable result of vital motion.

The soundness of the above premises is assumed as pertaining to all the various tissues of the body, even though they may be quite unequally effected; and as a well established corollary we may add that this fibrous decay is proportioned to the violence of the procuring vital motion.

Inevitable and absolute disintegration of the substance of the living body would seem therefore to be a speedy result of vitalization, and the cycle of life would appear truly ephemeral. There is, however, a counter-balancing force at work, as we shall see, which makes a continuation of life possible.

The living power which presides over the vitalized body and directs its operations is, in its unity, constituted by two separate, yet mutually dependent, forces, viz: the mental and vital, which have their seats in separate organs, with especial functions respectively.

The operations of the mind, as manifested through the functions of the cerebrum, are, in all their effects as pertaining to the body, exclusively exhaustive. During hours of wakeful activity, when these operations are progressing, the subsidence of the strengh and vigor of the body are proportional to the intensity and duration of these operations, an indefinite prolongation of which would lead to inevitable dissolution.

The work of the mind is aggressive—the prosecution of conquests. Its own development and increased ability are but results of its own exertion. Every mental operation, in proportion to its intensity, diverts the ordinary energies from other vital organs. An emergency may cause a special mental operation of such intensity as to abstract all functional energy from the other vital organs, and thus indirectly cause collapse and death.

The operations of the vital force are manifested through the functions of the cerebellum. It is charged with the care of the body as the burden of its existence. It works with an intention that surpasses intelligence, and with a watchfulness that permits of no sleep. It displays at one place and at another an energy that is commensurate with each local requirement, and never fails to compass every difficulty unless beyond the range of its ability. Its labors are successful to a degree beyond the success of intelligent effort.

The especial opportunity for the peculiar work of the vital force is when the mind is in repose and the body at rest. Sleep, as the angel of health, brings upon her wings the conditions of a possible restoration. The vital force, with every energy then set free, re-concentrates her attention upon the condition of the body. As, in an army, after a battle, reorganization and recuperation become necessary, hostilities having but temporarily ceased, every energy must be directed to the restoration of the normal condition in view of a possible renewal of the conflict; in like manner must the waste of tissue in the body, resulting from each day's operations, be replaced, and the physical vigor be restored during the intervening seasons of repose.

To restore and maintain the normal condition of the body is the especial office of the vital force. When tissues become exhausted by vital activity, and devitalization ensues, their presence among the living tissues is that of, not only inert, but actively morbific matter. It pertains to the office of the vital force to have perpetual cognizance of the presence of this effete material, to speedily remove it beyond the limits of the vital domain, and to replace it with newly vitalized fibers from the assimilated food. Thus there is a return to the normal or physical condition of the body, both as to its substance and vigor. When the waste during each period of activity is thus made good during the subsequent period of rest, we say health exists, and when there is any interruption of this restoration we say disease exists.

Devitalization of tissue may result from two classes of causes, viz: from inherent vital activity, or from some foreign hurtful agency, as mineral or vegetable poisons, diseased contaminations, mechanical injuries, etc. The result, however, is the same, whatever may be the procuring cause.

There are many interruptions of the healthy state which are speedily set right by a therepeutical intent of vital action. Because, however the interruption was not serious, or because there was no foreign assistance required or employed, does not warrant a declaration that that interruption did not constitute, both technically and really, a state of disease.

In the foregoing is depicted a universal condition of health. It is seen to consist not in a state of bodily purity, but in a condition that is involved in a process of perpetual decay and renewal, paradoxical though it may seem.

Health, therefore, may be defined as being that condition of the animal body, in which the relative harmony that exists in the normal state between the capacity of the vital force and the labor to be accomplished in the given time is maintained; and disease is any interruption of that harmony.

Disease, therefore, has a negative signification. It is but the absence of health, as wrong is the absence of right, or as disorder is the absence of order.

The phases of disease are legion. They vary in degree and nature with the procuring causes that may work even temporarily interruptions of the healthful condition.

Disease is also as truly a unit. Its tendency, in all cases, is to a dethronement of the vital force. On the other hand, the object of all therepeutical or vital efforts is the re-establishment of the ascendency of the vital force. To illustrate: In war the operations of each of the contending parties is a unit. The purpose of each is a unit, and the results necessary to a victory are a unit; and this, too, without any regard whatever to the procuring cause of the conflict. Nevertheless the presentations of the struggle as seen in the periphery of the operations of each of the contending parties, are exceedingly various. The navy, the cavalry, the infantry, the artillery, etc., each makes a distinctive display of force. In like manner diseases are separated into types that are quite dissimilar, but remotely and essentially they are a unit.

* * *

DISEASE OF THE COLON.

I AM aware that the plan of reporting the treatment and result of unsuccessful cases is thought by many to be altogether out of place; still it may be well enough for us all to know that the peculiarity of disease may be such that it may make such inroads upon, and so undermine the citadel of life before the sentinel (the sensitive nerves) gives the alarm, that a sufficient force (amount of vital power) can not be raised to repel the foe, before he will have completed his work—laid waste the "temple of the soul"—and, consequently, that the failure to vanquish the foe of "mortal man," can not be justly attributed so much to the want of using proper means, as the want of resisting his power in proper time.

I have just seated myself to report a case which, though perhaps not treated with the best means, nor in the best manner, was perhaps almost if not entirely beyond the reach of medicine before any was used.

The subject of this communication was about sixty-five years old, of nervo-bilious temperament, who for many years had been occasionally afflicted with dyspepsia, attended with hepatic derangement and occasional attacks of bilious colic. He had for some time enjoyed tolerably good health till the 22d of November, when he was attacked with what he supposed to be dyspepsia, and an uneasy sensation in the umbilical region of the abdomen, which was relieved by pressure. The bowels remained in this condition, with but slight watery discharges, till the morning of the 25th, when he was seized with violent pain between the left iliac and umbilical region, and which so nearly similated his former attacks of bilious colic, that it was supposed to be a violent attack of it. But he soon found that the pain did not yield to the influence of medicine, as it had formerly done. His son, R. H., was then called in, who gave a thorough emetic, a bath, enemas, &c., which seemed to produce but slight abatement of the pain. The enemas were continued; composed of lobelia, elm, third preparation, No. Six, &c., in quantities of from sixteen to twenty ozs., at proper intervals, without producing any action of the bowels.

On the evening of the 26th, Dr. J., a Hydro-Allopath, was called in, who proposed the application of cold, wet cloths to the abdomen, and cold water enemas. This course was pursued for a few hours next day, without any perceivable benefit; when, in consequence of the patient drinking a glass of cold water, Dr. J. withdrew his services, about twenty-four hours after he commenced, and the treatment before described was resumed, with the addition of external applications of third preparation, of lobelia, &c.

I was called on the 28th, at 6 A. M. Found the patient some easier than when using the cold applications, though pain continued, and sometimes very severe—surface rather dry—tongue tolerably clear—pulse full and ranging from fifty to sixty a minute, which Dr. A. informed me was about as in health—the bowels considerably distended, and pain increased by pressure. We then gave a spirit bath, which soon started perspiration and gave entire relief from pain for a time; then applied stimulating liniment to the whole surface, which had the effect to keep the action there for some hours; gave a tea composed of asclepias, cypripedium (nervine) and eupatorium (boneset) (he had taken a dose of cathartic pills a few hours before), and gave relaxing enemas in less quantities, which were retained for twenty or thirty minutes (those given before having been ejected almost immediately), then gave some more stimulants, but without producing any effect upon the bowels. In about two hours from the time of giving the bath, the pain returned, though not so severe as before, and in about three hours more the bath, liniment, &c., were repeated twice during that day, with about the same effect as at first.

At 6 P. M. I left Dr. A. to continue the treatment as during the day, and to give a dose of pills (composed of lobelia, bitter root, black root, mandrake and gamboge, in boneset extract,) next morning at 7 o'clock. About five hours after taking the pills there was considerable rumbling of the bowels, without any increase of pain, but it subsided without any other effect. At 6 P. M., the 29th, saw him again—but little change since the day before—pursued about the same treatment as before, excepting that the warm foot and sitz bath, and kneading the bowels while in the bath, were used alternately with the spirit baths. Continued this course until 12 next day (30), when there was a slight discharge from the bowels of bloody mucus (which was four hours after taking another dose of pills), which produced no pain. Soon after this several enemas were given through a gum tube, introduced from ten to eighteen inches; but still without producing any discharge.

At 2 P. M. left the patient again; pulse and surface as before—but little tenderness of the bowels—distension rather increased. The treatment the same till I returned next day at 4 P. M. Found the pulse accelerated—skin rather dry—pain almost incessant for the last twenty hours, and the stomach so irritable that no fluid would remain for any time. The distension and tenderness of bowels increased; put the patient in the bath, which gave some relief. Then commenced giving small portions of weak lobelia, which appeared to relieve pain and settle the stomach. Then in about two hours commenced giving more lobelia tea, with a view of producing emesis—but found, before giving much, that death had commenced its work; and, in about two hours, he died.

Post-mortem examination showed that the sigmoid flexure of the colon had ascended anterior to the transverse colon, into the epigastric region, the upper extremity being in contact with the stomach. The upper fourth of the rectum, and about fifteen inches of the colon, including the sigmoid flexure, were increased to double the proper size, and entirely gangrenous, the mucous coat being almost entirely disorganized. A completely defined line seemed to mark the extent of the gangrene; there being no appearance of disease in any other part of the alvine canal. The liver was found to be clear of any scirrosity or ulcers, though it was unusually dark. The stomach was in a state of considerable derangement, being in some places entirely stripped of the villous coat, and was easily removed with the scalpel. The right kidney was slightly affected. All other parts, so far as examined, were perfectly sound. Another fact worthy of remark is, that there was a considerable quantity of soft fecal matter within the diseased portion, amongst which was a quantity of grape seed and whole grapes, which had remained in the system for ten days.

These facts seem to me to present some queries worthy the attention of the physiologist, viz: was the contractibility of the muscular coat of the diseased part destroyed at the time, or soon after, pain commenced? If not, what could have prevented the discharge of the fecal matter with the enemas? Or, was there some change on the food which produced the state of derangement found after death, as above described?—*S. E. C., in Physio-Medical and Surgical Journal.*

EUCALYPTUS GLOBULES.

THIS tree is a native of Australia, but we are told it is easily acclimated and has been cultivated quite extensively in France and Spain, and more recently has been grown in some of our Southern and Southwestern States, especially in the larger cities of California. It is much admired for its beauty and novelty of appearance. Its leaves, which are narrow and from three to six inches long, have red edges, and when in motion they produce a changeable red and green appearance to the tree which is very attractive; added to this, the tree is of rapid growth and attains a gigantic size, and at the flowering season emits an aromatic odor which is very pleasant to most persons. We are told this tree belongs to the natural order *myrtaceæ*, which furnishes the *caryophyllus* (clove), *melaleuca* (oil of cejeput), *eugenia* (allspice), &c. But it is of the medical qualities of this tree we wish to speak more particularly. Just at this time the medical journals are teeming with fabulous accounts of the medical virtues of this tree, from which we are led to suppose that it was first introduced to the notice of the *profession* by some *regular* physician. From what we can learn, this tree was first brought to the notice of *the profession* on account of its great anti-periodic properties, as it was popularly known as the *fever tree.* More recently, however, its medical virtues have been said to be as numerous, and its capability of adaptation as multifarious for the cure of different forms of disease, as was ever ascribed to lobelia by Dr. Thomson, for which he was so severely criticised by his enemies. For example, it has been spoken of as a specific for all forms of fever, as a powerful disinfectant, removing the fetor of old sores in five minutes, and also producing healthy granulations in a short time. It cures gonorrhea, syphilis, bronchitis, diuresis, incontinence of urine, vesical catarrh, valvular disease of the heart, dysentery, chronic diarrhœa, dropsy, &c., &c.

We have not used this article enough to form any satisfactory opinion of its medical qualities, but from what has been said of it by its friends, we are rather suspicious that it does not properly belong to the physio-medical materia medica, for they say "it sometimes causes headache, excitement and fever with accelerated respiration, thirst, sickness and general sleepiness; upon anemic persons, however, it acts as a narcotic." These are rather suspicious effects for an agent to produce in the hands of a Physio-Medicalist, especially "narcotism." It may be however that some of our Alopathic friends have ascribed qualities to this article, in their blind zeal, which do not properly belong to it. When we come to consider that no agent properly belongs to the Alopathic materia medica unless it is a poison, we can understand how it is that they sometimes "put darkness for light and light for darkness," and are led to believe that sanative or non-poisonous agents belong to them. Will some of our Physio-Medical friends who have given this article a thorough trial, and who have *carefully* observed its effects, give us the results of their experience? C.

PARIS GREEN—ITS USES AND DANGER ATTENDING ITS USE.

THE technical or scientific name of this article is arsenite of copper, but its commercial name in this country is Paris Green, whilst in England it is called *Emerald Green* and in the continent is known as *Scheele's Green.* It is not a simple metal, as many suppose, but is a compound, as its technical name implies, and is composed of about three parts of copper to seven of arsenic, consequently it is very poisonous. It has been but about half a century since this article has come into anything like general use. On account of its high price, it has not been very generally used as a pigment or paint, except for door casings, window casings, blinds, &c. After a time its place as a paint was very generally substituted by chrome green mixed with white lead, &c.; but experience has shown that there is no pigment which will equal Paris Green for beauty and durability of color, hence it is now more generally used than it was a few years ago. It has recently been quite extensively used for two purposes to which we wish to call more particular attention at this time. First, as a destroyer of potatoe bugs, and secondly, as a pigment for grasses, leaves, &c., for mantel and other household ornaments. When we consider that many vegetables are liable to absorb mineral substances with which they come freely into contact, and that the fruit of such vegetables often partake largely of the mineral thus absorbed, both in taste and smell, we can not wonder if cases of poisoning leading to fatal results, as has been reported, would occur. The fact that all potatoes upon which this article is used are not poisoned, does not prove that the practice of applying it is strictly safe. Much depends, no doubt, upon the age of the potatoe when the article is applied, and perhaps much more upon the moist or wet condition of the vegetable when the application is made or the kind of weather which immediately follows the application.

We would ask the attention of the profession to this point, and request them to report any case of poisoning caused by the application of this article to potatoe tops which may come to their certain knowledge. If the frequent reports of poisoning from this cause are true, it should be generally known.

In applying this paint for purposes of ornamentation, great care should be taken that the poison be not inhaled, for though immediate serious effects might not take place, yet a period of incubation might develop serious if not fatal results from the neglect to use proper caution. And especially should great care be taken to keep all articles ornamented with this pigment out of the reach of small children, who at a certain age are in the habit of putting almost everything within their reach into the mouth, by which they are liable to become fatally poisoned. Mothers and others having the care of children should use the greatest caution on this point, and should remember that all green paints are more or less poisonous. C.

* * *

CHARCOAL FOR WOUNDS.—A correspondent of the *Scientific American* says:

"The best simple remedy I have found for surface wounds, such as cuts, abrasions of the skin, &c., &c., is charcoal. Take a coal from the fire, pulverize it, apply to the wound, and cover the whole with a rag. The charcoal absorbs the fluids secreted by the wound, and lays the foundation of the scab; it also prevents the rag from irritating the flesh, and it is antiseptic, by which unpleasant smell is prevented."

BLACK LEAD, PLUMBAGO, GRAPHITE.

THIS article is known by each of the names here given. Its common name implies that it belongs to the *plumbum* or *metallic lead;* but such is not the fact; for though, like plumbum, it is a metal, it differs from it very essentially in many particulars. Plumbum is easily melted at a quite moderate heat; plumbago or graphite will bear a very intense heat without melting; plumbum is quite malleable; graphite does not possess any malleability; plumbum enters into combination with many other substances, forming five or six oxides, and it also readily combines with acids, forming acetate, carbonate, nitrate, &c., many of which are used for medicine, but all of which are *poisonous;* plumbago or graphite forms but very few combinations, and is not a very active poison. Plumbum has been quite extensively used for many centuries; plumbago has only been used for a couple of centuries, and but sparingly, until within the last fifty years. It belongs to the carbon family (to use a common phrase), and quite recently has come into quite extensive use in the manufacture of pencils, but more particularly as a pigment or paint, for which it is gaining great favor, as it is said to be the most durable especially when exposed to the weather, hence it is now being used largely for painting metals, roofs of buildings, &c. The first mines discovered were at Barrowdale, England, but that mine has long since been exhausted. Very extensive mines were discovered on the island of Ceylon, and these mines furnished the major part of what was used in the civilized world until about forty or fifty years ago. Several small mines were discovered in Pennsylvania, and one or two in Europe. Recently this metal has been discovered in almost inexhaustible quantities near Ticonderoga, New York, of a quality which is said to be quite superior to any ever before discovered, on which account we are told the best quality of lead pencils have been sold so cheaply. As has been indicated, this metal is almost, if not entirely, free from the poisonous qualities of plumbum or common lead, and hence not being actively poisonous, our Alopathic friends have made but little use of it for medicinal purposes, except in some forms of cutaneous affections, in which case it has been used internally and also applied externally, but so far as we are aware with rather poor success. C.

"WHAT'S IN A NAME?"

SOME one has asked the above question, and another has answered by saying, "There's nothing in a name." Superficially considered, this will often seem to be an accurate answer to the question. The verifications are many, and as diversified in character as the needed examples could well suggest; one need not travel far in any direction before coming to the conclusion that there is little or nothing in a name.

A name, says Webster, is the title by which any thing or person is known, understood, or spoken of; appellation, etc., etc. "Name is generic, denoting that combination of sounds or letters by which a person or thing is known and distinguished." Thus considered, a name should always be the truthful representation of ideas, things and principles; when this is made the basis of definition, "a name" will ever mean something more than a phantom in the air. Language is but the physical expression or combination of ideas, having their foundation in the consciousness of all sensate beings, and this expression should always harmonize with the thing, principle, or cause intended to be portrayed by the individualized, conscious self. The range and scope must be sufficiently limited or extended to become specific, or a name as such can not be utilized by the individual or associates; and in so far as it deviates from the personal or collective understanding it becomes useless and deceptive in character, and it is here the superficial observer will be grounded in the mire and mazes of doubt and skepticism, forced to the conclusion that "there's nothing in a name." This conclusion, however, is perhaps wholly wrong. A name carries with it such potency and power, when universally accepted as representing the good and the true in politics, religion or science, that nearly all the perversions known in society are perpetrated under cover of this gilded banner. Witness these you must in all departments of human life; where society exists, one can not evade, if he would, the most striking examples upon every side.

It is not intended in this article to bring to notice in a special manner the almost innumerable perversions, twists, warps, angles and flexions, etc., etc., that a name is made to assume under the cunning engineering tact of man; suffice, however, a few observations which I shall make in and of the profession of medicine. Perhaps no department of life is made the prey of cunning deviltry so much as this. It is here that the purity and true meaning of language has been most distorted; it is here that a name so often means so little or nothing, because so often perverted and misapplied. What a prolific field is this of medicine to catch and entrap the confiding multitude, who honor and revere to a greater or less degree the name and office of doctor or physician—names made honorable alone by the untiring research and observations of those who are ever trying to penetrate and analyze the phenomena of nature as honest, diligent students. It has been the close students of nature who have made it necessary that such names should be created as best and most accurately representing their mission and relation to society. But these fair and honorable names are made to cover a vast herd of ignorant charlatans and pretenders who, like the parasites and cormorants which they are, continually sap, plunder and despoil the fair temple of medical science, erected by capable and industrious workmen, who have labored not alone for self, but for the best interests of all humanity.

Unfortunate it is that the world is so full of pretended knowledge and wisdom; that individuals with but a few days or months careless preparation have the brazeness to call themselves DOCTOR IN MEDICINE.

Much has been said of late years concerning the great strides of progress made in all departments of science during the past half century, and much has been said justly, but I fear we moderns overrate our own acquirements; the tendency of the times is for a too general knowledge, and to be thus is to be equally superficial. It has been said of the fathers of medicine, and Hippocrates in particular, that they commenced their pupilage in medicine at an early age under the guidance of a master mind; and it was a requirement to visit and become perfectly familiar with the collections of natural curiosities, and more especially those pertaining to disease, and its causes and cure, in the sacred temple of Hygea. Study here was made of special importance. Foreign lands were visited, the habits, customs, and acquirements of their people were closely observed, any and every thing calculated to enlighten and make more clear the understanding upon the subject of medicine was diligently gleaned and put in store for practical dispensation.

Many centuries have passed away, and yet the works of these grand students are revered and cherished, and when thousands of years more shall have passed away the light of these grand, ancient stars, though dimmed with the ages, will not be entirely extinct; the only solution I have for this durability is the untiring zeal they evinced for their chosen calling, and the energy displayed in its enfoldment, combined with great natural ability. It is such persons as these who have made for the profession of medicine the honor which it commands, and have made the name of doctor the synonym for learning and research.

Charlatans and *quacks* of all phases and kinds *suck* their nutriment from the body of society by applying to themselves the names made worthy by better men. The name of Doctor in Medicine should represent those only who are qualified and deserve its title.

But so long as pretended Medical Colleges grant trash which are called diplomas, to unworthy or poorly qualified students; so long as such individuals can pander to the credulity of the community and not be apprehended; so long as persons calling themselves honest men are able to practice all forms of dishonesty, and crime in its most fearful enormities; so long as brazen ignorance is labeled and called doctor, just that long will this name be a perverted and meaningless expression.

It is a surprise to see individuals rushing unprepared into a profession having such weighty and responsible cares. Reformation in medicine or anything else has no legitimate tangible meaning, when associated with so much pretentious ignorance, and tolerated by individuals laying claims to leadership in supposed reformatory movements.

I believe the time has come when no individual should think of practicing medicine unless having previously received thorough instruction from such sources as alone can afford or supply it, combined with natural capacity which alone can qualify him or her to enter upon the onerous duties of professional life. Culture can alone be the proper channel leading to a universal brotherhood, and is the beacon light to a worthy position or standing in any profession, and none other perhaps so much as medicine. That many enter this profession without culture or attainments, is a fact as well as a burning shame too well known.

It is true they do not enter far, but far enough usually to make unintelligible the terms they choose to call themselves.

Truth belongs to those who seek, cherish and cultivate it. Medical science is of such truth, and belongs to no creed or sect, but is free as heaven's sunlight to all who are willing to cultivate habits of industry as honest students of nature. *Filchers* and *scavengers* can never be the companions of such as they. Be thoroughly prepared for your duties and you ever have a good and trusty companion near by.

A name, as I understand the term, should have a definiteness and certainty which should be unmistakable; but I know of no one name in the English language which is more severely perverted and often means so little as the name DOCTOR.

> " Who steals my purse, steals trash; 'tis something, nothing.
> 'Twas mine, 'tis his, and has been the slave of thousands;
> But he who filches from me my good *name*,
> Robs me of that which not enriches him
> And makes me poor indeed."

Indianapolis, May 17, 1875. J. Q. W.

ON THE LOCAL USE OF TANNIN.

MR. THOMAS writes to the *British Medical Journal*, on concentrated solution of tannin as a styptic:

"I have used it for some years, as a topical application, in various diseases, though rather as an astringent than a styptic. To prepare it of full strength, an ounce of perfectly fresh tannin must be mixed with six drachms of water, in which it readily dissolves. The solution is a thick fluid of the color and consistence of treacle, which keeps much better than tannin itself. Most of the tannic acid found in shops contains a large proportion of galic acid, and will not yield a very strong solution. But if an ounce of old tannic acid be mixed with two ounces of water, a tolerably strong solution, which answers for many purposes, may be decanted off after subsidence.

"The strong solution of tannin is a most powerful astringent, almost free from irritating properties. It is one of the best dressings for wounds, far superior to collodion, and even less irritating than the styptic colloid, which it somewhat resembles. If applied by a brush and allowed to dry, it soon forms a pellicle which excludes the air, and gives ease to pain. It may be applied to almost any form of ulcer, and to wounds after amputations or other operations, especially when not very deep. It answers well, for instance, after the operation of hair-lip, painted over the pins and thread, in the same way as collodion is sometimes used.

"In a female, aged twenty-six, the hair was caught between rollers and the whole scalp removed to within an inch of the left eyebrow, and two inches from the right, round on a level with the tips of the ears to about the external occipital protuberance, the periostium being extensively removed at the vertex. There was much suppuration, followed by erysipelas. After three months, exfoliation of bone occurred, and skin-grafting was performed, first with eleven grafts, and, six weeks subsequently, with twenty-one. After varied treatment, antiseptic and other, little progress was made, till nine months after the accident strong tannin solution was applied. Discharge and fetor diminished at once, and the healing process went on more quickly than before. Tenderness diminished, and the general health improved rapidly for the first time since the accident. The wound, eighteen months after the accident, was about half its original size, and the discharge trifling. The patient does household work, wears only a thin cap, and is little worse for the accident, generally or locally.

"Strong tannin solution applied to the ulcerated skin of toe nail at once removes pain. After one application, the offending corner of the nail may be readily raised, a little lint inserted underneath, and the nail allowed to grow up. Among many cases, I have in this way cured one in which evulsion, twice performed, had proved only a temporary remedy, the disease being reproduced each time the nail grew up. For cracked nipples, this solution, diluted with an equal quantity of water, is the best application, and corresponds to the tannin solution commonly used for this purpose.

"Enlarged tonsils may be reduced by daily brushing with this solution. This treatment, though vastly inferior to extirpation, or even to the application of potassa cum calce, is painless, and therefore, in some cases useful. Bleeding warts may be readily removed by this application, as also by the perchloride of iron. I have found the former to readily reduce the granulations from an unhealed umbilicus in an infant."—*Medical and Surgical Reporter.*

SOME MORE DISCOVERIES.

Dr. Louis Jullien, in a work entitled "Statistical Researches as to the Causation of Tertiary Syphilis," published last year, gives us the results of his investigation, and the conclusions he has formed concerning the utility of mercury as a remedial agent in syphilis. His observations cover some 237 cases, and his investigations seem to have been very critical; but his conclusions do not leave that great Sampson, mercury, in the most enviable position as an anti-syphilitic. Some of his conclusions are as follows: (1) Persons subjected to mercurial treatment at the commencement of the secondary period, constitute a great majority of those in whom tertiary manifestations are exhibited, both in hospital and private practice. (2) Tertiary lesions of the nervous system and testicles are almost sole appendages of mercurial treatment. (4) Lastly, and this is his principal conclusion, the author says: "If we had to arrange in a general manner our three series according to their benignity, we should adopt the following order: (1) natural syphilis; (2) syphilis mercurialized from the first; (3) syphilis mercurialized from appearance of secondary symptoms."

Now it seems to us that if the most benignant, or harmless, of his three series of cases, be those who have been left to nature, without treatment, that all humanitarian principles would dictate to turn *all* syphilitic cases over to "Mother Nature" at once.

If this "great Sampson" is the sole cause of lesions of the nervous system, the testicles, the bones and the general disintegration of the more solid portions of the human system that we find in the so-called cases of tertiary syphilis, why in the name of all that is good do not our "regular" neighbors abandon the thing at once, and not ruin so many constitutions that would, if left to themselves, rid the frame of the syphilitic poison.

If the "regular" school do not muzzle some of their investigators in this line, they will by and by "discover" what Physio-Medicalists have long known, viz, that ninety-nine hundredths of the "tertiary syphilis" is nothing more nor less than mercurial devastation.

We hope the signs of the times are not wholly unpropitious; that these investigators will continue their investigations; that these "discoverers" will prosecute their work until they discover that it is not a good thing to give any poison to cure any form of disease. For certainly the same "nature" that cures syphilis better without the help of the "great specific" than with it, will relieve the system of any form of disease more readily and effectually without any medication than she will with the presence of those noxious agents so frequently administered for their relief.

LARGE RENAL CALCULUS.

In the fifty-seventh volume of the Medico-Chirugical Transactions, published by the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society of London, a case of renal calculi is reported, an abstract of which we find in the Bibliographical Notices of the American Journal of the Medical Sciences for April, 1875. The patient was one of Dr. Samuel Gee, and the abstract as follows:

"The patient was a man thirty-eight years of age, who inherited a gouty diathesis from his father, and who had been from childhood liable to attacks of pain in the right loin. Five months before his death the pain in the right loin became continual. About the same time he noticed a swelling in the right half of his belly. When he came under Dr. Gee's observation, a tumor could be felt, corresponding in position with the visible swelling, and occupying a large part of the right side of the belly. The upper part of this tumor was hard as stone; the lower part was soft, and gave an imperfect fluctuation; moreover, even in this part hard spots could be reached by deep pressure. After death this tumor proved to be the right kidney greatly enlarged. Its pelvis, which was very much dilated, contained, 1. A great calculus, weighing 36 ounces. 2. About a thousand smaller calculi. 3. A large quantity of calculous dust and purulent urine. The left kidney was also greatly enlarged, and its pelvis was distended by a calculus which weighed 9¾ ounces. Many of the calculi included under the second heading were unusually large, nine of them being larger than a cherry. Concerning the chemical composition of the calculi, Dr. Gee writes: The bulk of the large calculus was found by Dr. Russell to consist of phosphate of magnesia and ammonia nearly pure. Its brown nucleus was more complex in its nature, consisting of oxalate of lime, with traces of phosphate of magnesia and ammonia, carbonate of lime and uric acid.

"Putting aside a case in which, according to Civiale, Pohl found a stone which weighed more than five pounds in the kidney of a princess, two of these calculi are the largest on record."

PERMANENCE OF VITAL POWERS.

In clearing away the refuse from the ancient silver mines of Larium, in Greece, a large number of seeds of a papaveracea of the Glaucium genus were found, which must have been buried there for at least fifteen hundred years. Exposed to the beneficent influence of the sun's rays, they rapidly took root, flourished, budded, and blossomed, the yellow corollas being beautiful in the extreme. This interesting flower, unknown to modern science, is particularly and frequently described in the writings of Pliny and Dioscorides, and is thus again resuscitated, after having disappeared from the surface of the globe for more than fifteen centuries.—*Medical Press and Circular.*

Well, what of it? According to the "modern tendency of thought" on these little questions of science, if you will just let old Sol bring a few of his beneficent rays to bear upon a heap of dirt—a pile of stone or any other in organic substance, for two or three hundred millions of years, he will evolve therefrom grass, yellow colored flowers, and finally monkeys and men. But suppose the seed of these Horn Poppies had *lost* that *vital power*, do you suppose that there is a flower-grower in the world that would expect to see the yellow corolla? We suspect that seven or eight hundred thousand years of effulgent sunlight, together with warmth and moisture would utterly fail to start a rootlet therefrom, much less develop a flower. But it is interesting to know that the vital power of a seed may be preserved, although dormant, for the short period of fifteen centuries.

ADULTERATED CAYENNE PEPPER.

THE London *Lancet* gives the following results of an analysis of twenty-eight samples of cayenne pepper. Out of the above number only four were genuine. Out of twenty-four adulterated samples twenty-two contained mineral coloring matter. Red lead, often in large and poisonous quantities, was present in thirteen samples. Venetian red, red ochre, brickdust, or some other analagous ferruginous earth, were contained in seven samples. Cinnabar, vermillion, or sulphuret of mercury were detected in one sample. Six samples consisted of ground rice, turmeric and cayenne, colored with red-lead or a red ferruginous earth. Six contained salt, frequently combined with rice and red ferruginous earth or red-lead. One of the samples was adulterated with a quantity of the husks of white mustard seed. Two contained rice only, colored with red-lead or a ferruginous earth.—(*New Remedies.*)

From the above we see that a very common article is most abominably adulterated. We find many samples in our own market that are shamefully mixed. Indeed a large proportion of the commercial drug is adulterated, and care is required in making selections. We frequently find it with coloring matter, and sometimes much as the fellow's powder—"been shot once." At least it is devoid of strength and but little better than the dregs after tincturing. So look to your pepper.

RECOLLECTIONS OF LIFE AND MEDICAL PRACTICE.

BY AN ORIGINAL PHYSICIAN—DR. JOSEPH GREY.

No. 1—"Killing a Fever."

My eldest brother, with whom I was studying, was called to a council of physicians to a young man in the morning of life, who had been sick with a fever and was now lying very low.

I had nothing to do but look on and listen to their remarks, from which I learned that his physician had been trying to "kill, the fever" by blistering, bleeding and physic, and had so well succeeded that it was unanimously conceded by the council that unless they could do something to raise a fever, the patient must die.

"How is this?" I exclaimed to my brother as we were riding leisurely home on horse-back, side by side, "You doctors say unless you can excite a fever the patient must die, and it is plain enough that he will die, it is now out of human power to save him, but when he had a fever why did they take such measures in breaking it up as to break up his constitution also?"

My brother made very little explanation. Then I said, "You make no defense of this mode of practice, because there is none, and I will find a better way or I will never go into the practice of medicine."

PHYTOLACCA DECANDRIA.

In the month of April, 1874, I was called to see three children who had eaten poke root; found them all vomiting and purging, and very much prostrated. The youngest, about three years old, was almost pulseless; surface cold and purple; pupils dilated; respiration very difficult—so completely paralyzed that death seemed probable at any moment. I give it as my opinion that she would have died if stimulants had not been administered.

Treatment: Composition tea and lobelia to remove any that might remain in the stomach, and then gave tinct. lobelia, one drop, in one teaspoonful of warm water, adding one drop essence peppermint, every three to five minutes, until the vomiting ceased; gave very strong coffee and whisky toddy, alternately, every five to ten minutes, until there was a reaction.

The relaxation may have been similar to that produced by lobelia. I think not.

I have used a tincture of the dried and green root in rheumatism in combination with cimicifuga, three to five drops four or five times a day—no bad effect apparent. I have used it externally and internally for mastitis with good results.

External application: Tinct. lobelia, three parts; tinct. phytolacca, one part; apply three or four times a day.

Nevada, Mo. ALBERT CHURCHELL.

PHYSIO-MEDICAL ASSOCIATION OF INDIANA.

THE *thirteenth* session of this Association will be held in the Senate Chamber, in the city of Indianapolis, on the 8th, 9th, and 10th of June, 1875.

It is hoped that the profession at large will note this fact and be in attendance in force, as an interesting time is anticipated.

A number of papers on important subjects are expected from prominent men in the profession, and a general good time is in store for those who attend.

N. NEWBY, *Sec'y.* B. F. COFFIN, *Pres't.*

ENLARGED TONSILS.

Within the past two years I have endeavored to ascertain whether enlargement of the tonsils is hereditary, and the evidence so far is in the affirmative.

I find that when one parent has enlarged tonsils, the child of a family that resembles that parent is the afflicted one. (This I have found the same in cases of enlargement of the spleen and several other forms of disease observed.)

Treatment:

Tinct. Lobelia,
Tinct. Cimicifuga,
Tinct. Myrrha et Capsicum,
Simple Syrup, aa—ʒj.

Mix—apply three or four drops well back on the tongue several times a day.

This is the best local remedy I have used for enlargement, and for acute tonsilitis it is *the* remedy, and need only be tried in one case to prove its effect.

Nevada, Mo. Albert Churchell, M. D.

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A DOCTOR'S LIFE.

The following, taken from an old paper, gives a fair picture of a doctor's life, *as it is*, in many communities:

"If he visits a few of his customers when they are well, it is to get his dinner; if he does not, it is because he cares more for the fleece than the flock. If he goes to church regularly, it is because he has nothing to do; if he don't, it is because he has no respect for the Sabbath or religion. If he speaks to a poor person, he keeps bad company; if he passes them by, he is better than other folks. If he has a good carriage, he is extravagant; if he uses a poor one on the score of economy, he is deficient in necessary pride. If he makes parties, it is to soft-soap the people to get their money; if he don't make them, he is afraid to spend a cent. If his horse is fat, it is because he has nothing to do; if he is lean, it is because he isn't taken care of. If he drives fast, it is to make people think somebody is very sick; if he drives slow, he has no interest in the welfare of his patients. If he dresses neat, he is proud; if he does not, he is wanting in self-respect. If he works on the land, he is fit for nothing but a farmer; if he don't work, he is too lazy to do anything. If he talks much, we don't want a doctor to tell everything he knows; if he don't talk, we like to see a doctor sociable. If he says anything about politics, he had better let it alone; if he don't say anything about it, we like to see a man show his colors. If he visits his patients every day, it is to run up a bill; if he don't, it is unjustifiable negligence. If he says anything about religion, he is a hypocrite; if he don't he is an infidel. If he uses any of the popular remedies of the day, it is to cater to the whims of the people to fill his pockets; if he don't use them, it is from professional selfishness. If he is in the habit of having counsel often, it is because he knows nothing; if he objects on the ground that he understands his own business, he is afraid of exposing his ignorance to his superiors. If he gets pay for half his services, he has the reputation of being a great manager."

EFFECTS OF TOBACCO ON THE NERVOUS SYSTEM.

We see from the Trans. Med. Soc. Pa., Vol. x, that Dr Brumbaugh has been making some observations as to the causation of various nervous difficulties which it would be well for the profession at large to note. The Doctor has for several years noticed a growing tendency to nervous affections and mental disorders. Partial paralysis, in which the integrity of a portion of the sympathetic or ganglionic system of nerves is involved, has been quite common. And from careful observation he finds this condition of things associated with the tobacco habit. Mental derangements from dyspepsia, attributable to the same cause, are also largely on the increase.

Diseases of the heart, softening of the brain, paralysis, and all the category of nervous affections, are largely attributable to tobacco. The increase in this class of affections bears a direct ratio to the revenue realized upon tobacco in any country. And to-day it, perhaps, is claiming more victims than whisky. A general awakening upon this subject is needed. "Why spend ye your money for that which is not bread?"

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NOTE.—In the April issue we tried very hard to have the dates in the article on Priority of Publication correct, but failed, for the printer would miss the thing in spite of all that we could do. The quotation was made from the *Investigator* of *January 1st*, eighteen hundred and seventy-*five* instead of 1873.

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Physio-Medical Journal

AND

REFORM ADVOCATE.

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PHYSIO-MEDICALISM.—ITS COLLEGES.

No. V.

IN the May issue of this journal, we promised to speak next of the Physio-Medical Colleges in this number. We have already spoken of the botanic or physio-medical infirmaries which were established in many States of the country, where patients were treated and instructions given in the practical application of the remedies used. In this manner very many were instructed so far as to enable them to practice with good success in a large number of cases. But there was a defect in their education which could only be supplied or remedied in a medical college where a thorough knowledge of anatomy, physiology, botany, chemistry, etc., could be obtained.

About 1835, Dr. A. Curtis was called from Richmond, Va., to take the editorial charge of the Thomsonian Recorder, a semi-monthly journal published in the interest of Jarvis Pike & Co., who kept a medical depot in Columbus, Ohio, and who were Dr. Thomson's agents for that State. It was not long, however, until some differences arose between Drs. Thomson and Curtis, because the latter advocated the necessity of a more thorough medical education, preparatory to practice, than was then common and than Thomson thought necessary. He finally carried his opposition to Curtis so far as to forbid him to use his (T's) name in connection with the journal. In 1836 Curtis changed the name from Thomsonian to Botanico-Medical Recorder, and he opened an infirmary and invited men to come to it and study the botanic or physio-medical system more thoroughly than had been previously done. On the 3d day of February, 1836, he commenced, alone, to deliver a course of lectures to a small class who came to him for instruction. Among those who attended the first year were Drs. Hussey, Worthy, Biggs, Leake, Earl, Nollder and others who have distinguished themselves in the profession. At the suggestion of Dr. Curtis, petitions were sent to the Legislature from all parts of the State asking for a college charter. At the session of 1836–37 a bill was passed in the House granting a charter for the Botanico-Medical College of Ohio, but the bill was defeated in the Senate by a combination of its enemies headed by two or three physicians of a different medical faith. At the next session (March, 1838,) the bill passed the Senate by a large majority, and thus was the first Botanico or Physio-Medical College of the world established, or rather authorized. Curtis then called to his assistance his brother Samuel, a converted allopathic physician of distinction, and the college classes increased in numbers, until, in 1841, a special act was passed authorizing the removal of the college to Cincinnati, where it was first located at the corner of Lawrence and Front streets. In 1843 it was again removed to what was then known as Madame Trollope's Bazaar building, on Third street east of Broadway, and at the next session (43–4) the faculty was composed of Profs. H. W. Hill, Alva Curtis, Samuel Curtis and Hollister. Dr. Samuel Curtis died before his work commenced, and lectures were given by the other three gentlemen just named, and the class numbered forty students. At the next session Prof. Jas. Brown was called to fill the chair of Chemistry, Botany and Materia Medica, and the class increased to sixty in number. Subsequently the faculty was made full, and the classes increased until, in 1848, they numbered 119. About this time the junior members of the faculty took control of the college, and Dr. Curtis withdrew, intending to devote his whole time to writing, lecturing, etc. Soon after this Prof. Hill died, and the other members of the faculty made application to the Legislature to change the name of the college from Botanico-Medical to Physopathic, and also to perpetuate the charter of "The Cincinnati Literary and Scientific Institute," intending by this to separate the medical from the literary and scientific departments of the University, and thereby get the college under their entire control. But when the matter came to be legally investigated, it was found that they had been disappointed in what they had intended; they had merely withdrawn from the University, and had secured a charter for a new college (Physopathic), which was not a Physio-Medical but an Eclectic college in its teachings. It lived but about two years, when it went down, and upon its ruins was built the American Medical College, which was conducted by those who had apostatized from the true doctrines of Physio-Medicalism, and it also died when it was but three or four years old. Dr. Curtis, seeing that those into whose hands he had committed the Physio-Medical College had abandoned it, revived it in 1851 by calling to his assistance four other professors, but the class only numbered about thirty students. In 1852 Dr. Curtis removed the college from the Bazaar on Third street to the Cincinnati College Building on Walnut street, and an effort was made to endow it, but it only partially succeeded, and was finally abandoned after the plan had been tried about three years. The classes never numbered as high as fifty students in any one year. In 1858 Dr. Curtis resigned his place in college, with the intention of taking a professorship in the Ohio Female College, and spending a part of the time in traveling, revising his works, etc. The college was continued for a year or two after Curtis left it, when the faculty resigned, and they obtained a charter for the Physio-Medical Institute in December, 1859. The Institute was conducted in the Cincinnati College Building from 1859 to 1866, when it was removed to the corner of Seventh and Cutter streets, where it still remains. In 1860 Dr. Curtis again revived the Physio-Medical College in the old Bazaar, where he remained about one year, and then removed it to Vine Street Hill, north of the city, and after staying there about two years it was returned to the city, near the corner of Longworth street and Central avenue, where Dr. Curtis still delivers a course of lectures each winter to classes of lady students.

We should not have been so tedious in the description of this college but for the fact that it was the first organized and oldest college of the kind in the United States. We shall give a brief continuation of this subject in the next issue. C.

A NEW BASIS FOR STIMULATING LINIMENT.

BY DR. J. L. WRIGHT.

MR. EDITOR: By your leave, I will place before the readers of your journal a few remarks and conclusions in regard to Danforth's Burning Fluid as a basis for an external liniment, very similar, in the majority of respects, to the ordinary stimulating Liniment used by the Physio-Medical profession.

Two years since, my attention was called to this article as an excellent erasive fluid, to take grease spots out of any kind of clothing. This fact led me to conclude that it might be used as a cheap and satisfactory solvent for gums, essential oils, etc. Bought and prepared a pint, by first adding an ounce of pulv. capsicum; let digest two days in a warm place, then filtered and added half oz. each oils sassafras, cedar, origanum and hemlock; also, a large lump of gum camphor.

First applied it on my own person at several different times and different parts, first carefully, then thoroughly and effectually, and not being able to detect any injurious or unpleasant results, I gave it a place in my pill-case along with lobelia and capsicum, to use in the first case where an external stimulant was indicated, which unfortunately was one of unusual severity — inflammatory rheumatism. Commenced the liniment at first carefully, and watched the results closely. No vesication or other unfavorable effects followed. Then I grew bolder, and in a short time had the painful parts bathed freely with it every four hours. With internal sanitary medication with the liniment, the patient made a speedy and very satisfactory recovery. Twenty-one days from the first visit she was able to sit up in the easy chair comfortably, and had it not been for the daily visits and discouraging persuasions and conversations of some very knowing old ladies, and some not so old (whom Professor S. E. Carey, for convenience, in his lectures, calls old Mrs. Smith, Jones or Flora Magrundy), the recovery would undoubtedly have been more rapid. Every thorough application was followed by almost entire relief for a greater or less length of time. Since then she has been a firm believer in the remedy, and keeps a bottle constantly on hand.

Second Case — Quinsy. The individual had been subject to it for the last twelve years. Everything and plan had been tried in vain to arrest and prevent suppuration.

Gave him half a pint of the liniment, with instructions how to use it, and requested him to let me know the results, which were substantially as follows: Had to go from home five miles to finish a contract for hauling wood; started early and, not anticipating any considerable change in the weather, did not take any heavy clothing with him; 3 P. M. commenced drizzling rain and getting cool; wishing to finish the job before leaving, he continued to work until dusk; throat by this time was feeling very sore and uncomfortable, and by the time he reached home had swelled to such an extent as to prevent speech; gave throat a thorough rubbing before loosing his team, and repeated the application again before going to bed; also, saturated a piece of flannel and bound round his neck; retired, and went to sleep in the course of half an hour; slept soundly through the night; awoke next morning without a single symptom of the disease, except weakness; the soreness, tenderness, swelling and other attending symptoms had vanished like a midnight dream. From that time to the present he has been threatened with an attack at five different times, which has been promptly met and vanquished by one or two thorough applications. Since then I have treated quite a number of cases, and, without a single exception, have prevented suppuration and given relief in a few hours.

Third Case — Hardened enlargement of the trachea, just below Adamum Pomi, which annoyed the person very much by the collar of the shirt rubbing and irritating the affected part. Ordered the liniment to be applied freely three times per day. In ten days no trace of it could be discovered. No other means or medication was employed in this or either of the cases of quinsy.

Thus I might go on and relate quite a number of other cases, of different forms of disease, to which it has been applied with satisfactory results, but the above will give the reader a general idea or outline of its uses. For frosted feet, burns where the skin is not broken, sprains, bruises, stiffness, swelling, soreness, rheumatism, neuralgia, and deep-seated congestion I have found it to give relief, both temporary and permanent, in a much larger per cent. of cases than any other liniment or appliance I have ever used. Have often witnessed relief follow a single application inside of ten minutes.

A few words about its cost, solvent properties, etc., compared with ninety-eight per cent. alcohol, and I will be ready to submit the case to the tests and criticisms of the profession. Am informed by Mr. J. J. Mohr, agent at this place, that it can be bought, by the single barrel, at Cleveland, Ohio, for eleven cents per gallon; retails here at twenty cents per gallon. So, as regards the relative cost, the difference is vastly in favor of the fluid. It was first manufactured by Mr. Danforth at Cleveland, this State, but learn that he has sold out and started some place in Missouri. It burns with a steady, clear light, equal to any of the coal oils, and is free, in a great measure, from the scent and smoke which are the universal attendant of petroleum. On this account it is used by a great many persons as an illuminator. It dissolves comphor gum readily in large quantities; extracts the stimulating properties and coloring matter of capsicum equal to alcohol; cuts the oils of sassafras, origanum, cedar, hemlock, cinnamon and bergamot rapidly and perfectly; penetrates the skin and soft structures of the body like magic. Patients suffering from throat troubles often say that they taste sassafras in their throats before completing the first application; it leaves the skin and surface entirely free from oils, gums and grease. The slight odor of petroleum connected with it can be pretty effectually concealed by a few drops of cinnamon or bergamot oil. Dr. Davis has just handed me a bottle to which he has added spirits of ammonia, completely covering up all the odors so effectually that an expert could not possibly detect it. The reason why we have labored to conceal the odor of it is that a great many persons are prejudiced against coal oil, or have no faith in it, and therefore you can not persuade them to use it. In conclusion, I believe it to be a safe, reliable sanative and truly valuable remedy.

Bellefontaine, Ohio.

A CASE OF CARBUNCLE.

MUCH as anatomy and physiology are regarded as the foundation upon which a sound medical education should be built, and much as physicians generally understand about the structure and sympathetic relation of the different parts or organs of the body, there is a constant tendency in the minds of all physicians to overlook these important facts, and to localize their treatment in all local forms of disease. We once heard a physician object to the works of a certain author because he recommended the use of constitutional means too frequently in his work on Theory and Practice of Medicine. To prove his assertion he went on to say that the author even recommended courses of medicine in case of felon on the finger. This only proved the stupidity of the objector; for, if he had been properly informed, he would have known that, though constitutional treatment in such cases is not always convenient, it is always proper, and often indispensable to success. The case recorded in an old volume of the *P. M. Recorder* proves the propriety — yea, the absolute necessity, of using constitutional treatment in local forms of disease.

"I was called to see R. H. on November 10th, he having been sick for five days. Found him with a large swelling on his back, below the shoulder bone, and extending from the spine eight inches around the side. It was about four inches wide, hard, purple around its edges, heavy leaden color through the center, dotted with white pimples under the cuticle, and not particularly sensitive. The skin had broken in the middle of the swelling, discharging greenish yellow pus. The patient had been very restless, tongue heavily coated, pulse small, hard and frequent, urine scanty and turbid, appetite gone, bowels obstinately torpid, breathing short and painful, and heart disposed to suffer from palpitation. His previous health had been good, though the system was evidently troubled with foul humors. The case was evidently one of carbuncle, the morbific accumulation being very extensive, the lungs suffering greatly from the presence of such a mass of poisonous material over them, and the whole system being depressed. The indications were to purify and invigorate the system promptly, and then to arouse a healthy action in the parts, that the decaying structures might be cast off as quickly as possible and sound tissues built up in their stead.

Treatment: The treatment was begun by giving a very thorough emetic, using weak composition tea as a drink, and exhibiting the lobelia in several large doses. This emetic was repeated on the second day, a drink of asarum (wild ginger) and gravel root (eupatorium purpureum) being administered freely in the meantime. Enemas of slippery elm and lobelia were given every two hours, with directions to have them retained as long as possible; and doses of bitter root were given to remove accumulations from the bowels. A poultice of flax-seed, lobelia, ginger and pond lily was applied to the sore itself, and this was directed to be changed every six hours, the surface of the whole swelling being washed with golden seal each time. Under the influence of the above constitutional treatment the painful breathing and palpitating heart were relieved within twenty-four hours, and the pulse became softer and the tongue clearer within two days. The white pimples under the cuticle of the carbuncle burst one after another, leaving a small, foul and painless ulcer beneath each; the swelling subsided slowly; the cuticle peeled off over the whole enlarged surface, and the one huge sore, five and a half inches long by two and a quarter inches wide, presented itself within a week from the commencement of the treatment. The surface of the sore was irregularly excavated, the depressions filled with a heavy gray and sticky mass of corruption, and the ridges between them presenting a deep plum red color. There was but little feeling in the parts, and a profuse greenish yellow discharge was cast off all the time. The local treatment consisted in filling the excavations with pure cayenne pepper, and then covering the whole carbuncle with a poultice of slippery elm, lobelia seeds and gum myrrh. The enemas and drink of asarum and gravel root were continued regularly, and the patient, finding much pain in his stomach, took an emetic of his own accord about every second day, ejecting large quantities of muddy green water each time. The breathing became entirely relieved in a short time, the appetite became fair, the bowels regular, the urine abundant and the sleep comfortable. The patient, of course, looked thin and felt feeble, but suffered no pain. In ten days from the commencement of the treatment the swelling around the carbuncle had subsided not less than one half, a good arterial hue prevailed, sensitiveness returned, the body of the putrid ulcer came away in a huge slough, and a clean granulating sore was found underneath. The patient was then placed upon a syrup of sarsaparilla, burdock and guaiacum chips, small doses of black root, to maintain a gentle action of the liver, and a wash of cranesbill (geranium) and a poultice of slippery elm, lobelia and a little pond lily to the sore. In about one week more he was out of doors attending to his ordinary business; the deep excavation had filled up evenly with the surrounding surface, and a few days sufficed to restore the parts to soundness. Mr. H. was not confined to his house three weeks, came out with better health than he had enjoyed for several years before, and was almost 'as one risen from the dead' to the Allopathists, who did not scruple to say that his difficulty was a case of poisoning by lobelia, and that if he got well at all he would not be able to crawl out of his house for the next six months. * * * We have seen no worse cases than this go to the grave within a month from the commencement of such a carbuncle."

THE BREATH OF LIFE.

Synopsis of a Lecture delivered before the Wayne County Teachers' Institute by J. M. Thurston, M. D., June, 1874.

THE subjects of anatomy and physiology in the abstract have always been deemed by the literary student dry, monotonous studies; and, with this fact in my mind, venturing a lecture upon the subjects to-night, I hope to receive your charity if, by endeavoring to render my discourse entertaining I should seem more terse than scientific, or more voluble than concise.

There are many phenomena constantly occurring within the secret recesses of our bodies, which operate in accordance with laws and principles that are most vital to our physical well-being, and yet are so common in occurrence that from the very fact of their familiarity we pass them by with scarce a thought, when a little investigation and inquiry into the wonderful philosophy of their operations would enable us to make use of the means bountifully at hand for the furtherance of our health and enjoyment.

In the *very* common process of breathing occurs a physiological phenomenon which, in depth of conception and grandeur of purpose, transcends almost all the other wonderful processes in this great laboratory of life; and yet, what is more common than breathing! Why, we just breathe our way through life, day after day, week after week, month after month, and year after year, with scarce a thought as to the how or wherefore of this wonderful process.

If I were called on to determine which one of the various functions of the human system was the most important to life, I would unhesitatingly decide in favor of breathing. Now I know there are some who will not agree with me on this point; but happily, I do not think there are any of this kind present to-night. One class of these persons who do not believe much in breathing, you will frequently observe on our street corners these warm, sunny days; quiescently reclining on a dry-goods box, their spinal column well supported by a building, with listless gaze and almost imperceptible respiration, they just think *breathing* is the greatest nuisance in the world! They can't see why on earth a man is doomed to breathe fifteen or eighteen times every God blessed minute of their lives! There is another class who seem to think the function of breathing is but a small affair compared with latest styles, shapes, etc. They do not believe in lung suffrage, so to speak; they seem to think that the lungs have no right to monopolize so large a space of their fair proportions; consequently they make vigorous war on these organs, and heroically do they encroach on their domains, fighting their way by the half inch, until the lungs are forced to be content with scarce half the space that Dame Nature has allotted them.

In order to talk more understandingly of my subject, and give you a better conception of this Breath of Life, I must, for a short time, direct your attention to some diagrams I have drawn upon this board, and by them give you an idea of the anatomy and physiology of the lungs. The lungs are the essential organs of respiration, two in number, situated in each side of the chest. They are conical in shape, the base resting on the diaphragm, or midriff, and the apex extends into the root of the neck from one to one and a half inches. The weight of both lungs together is about two pounds ten ounces avoirdupois; the left lung is the smallest, being two ounces lighter than the right one. It is thus smaller to accommodate the heart, which lies mostly to the left side of the chest. The color of the lungs varies at different stages of life; at birth they are pinkish white; a dark slate color, mottled in patches, at adult life, and as age advances these mottled patches assume a dark and black color. The lungs are smaller in the female than in the male; this is owing to — the fashions mostly, I presume. The substance of the lung is light, spongy, and floats on water; pinching it between the fingers produces a cracking sound, from the presence of air in its cells.

The wind-pipe, at a point about opposite the second rib, divides into two tubes, one entering each lung. The one entering the right lung is largest, and more towards the median line of the chest; hence foreign substances entering the wind-pipe are more apt to lodge in the right lung. After entering the lungs these tubes commence dividing and sub-dividing, like the branches of a tree, until they spread out through the substance of the lungs, reaching throughout their whole substance. These are called bronchial tubes. Each bronchial tube ends in a small sack-like enlargement, called the air cell. These are only from $\frac{1}{120}$ to $\frac{1}{1200}$ of an inch in diameter, but the number is very great. It has been estimated that their aggregate surface would cover the area of a circle whose diamater would be seventeen feet. When from any cause, such as inhaling poisonous gases or solid substances, tight lacing, etc., the air is unable fully and freely to enter these cells, the functions of the lungs are interfered with to the extent of the impediment, and, as we have already hinted at the importance of their function, we must learn how necessary it is that we should use every means that will facilitate the action of these organs to their fullest extent.

The air is taken into the lungs chiefly by means of the muscles of the chest, which elevate the ribs, increasing the diameter of its cavity, and also by the expansion of the air cells. This process is called Inspiration. The elasticity of the air cells causes them to contract after being filled to the extent of their capacity, and, by the assistance of the intercostal muscles, situated between the ribs, pulling them down, the air is expelled from the lungs. This process is called Expiration. Collectively, these processes get the name of Respiration. The average number of respirations per minute in a healthy person is from fifteen to eighteen. By a forced inspiration a person may take into the lungs from forty to one hundred cubic inches of air; some persons can take in even two hundred and twenty-five cubic inches. The average quantity of air respired by a healthy person is from twenty to twenty-five cubic inches. Then, suppose we stay in this room two hours, and each person breathes eighteen times every minute, taking in twenty cubic inches at each inspiration, each one of us must have forty-two thousand two hundred cubic inches of air during our stay. Suppose this room contains two hundred persons, each making eighteen respirations of twenty cubic inches per minute, we will use an aggregate of nine million five hundred and forty thousand cubic inches of air during our two hours stay; and you must know that it is just as essential that we should breathe pure air as that we should drink pure water or eat wholesome food. Further on I hope to point out to you the unhealthy condition of air after it is thrown out from the lungs. While here, I might throw in a hint as to the cause of our frequently returning from church or other public gatherings with sick headache, cold hands and feet, a bad cold, etc.—all of which should learn us by all means to ventillate most thoroughly our public buildings, as well as private dwellings.

It was the belief of our ancient physiologists that the lungs were a kind of bellows, forcing air into the system, which was carried through the body by the arteries. This theory was based chiefly on the fact that these vessels are found empty after death; hence it was thought they contained air, and from this got the name of artery, signifying air tube, which name they retain to this day. This theory of air circulation was the prevailing one down to the year 1628, when William Harvey, an English physiologist, announced to the world his discovery of the circulation of the blood.

By the process of breathing are wrought wonderful and most important changes in the blood. After all the nutrition has been carried by the blood throughout the system the veins take up the exhausted fluid from the whole circumference of the body and carry it back to the right auricle of the heart, from which it is passed into the right ventricle and forced into the lungs through two large tubes passing one to each lung., called the pulmonary arteries. These arteries pass into the lung substance, where they divide and subdivide, like the bronchial tubes, meeting the air cells, and separated from them only by a very thin membrane, through which an interchange takes place between the blood and the air in the cells. The blood in the veins is a dark red or bluish color until it reaches this point, when it becomes a bright red. It is now carried back by means of the pulmonary veins and emptied into the left auricle of the heart, passed into the ventricle, and from thence forced out through the arteries into every part of the body, where it again unloads its nutrition to build up the structures, and is again taken up by the veins and carried back to the heart, thence to the lungs to be re-airified. Thus this breath of life fans away the impure vapors from the stream of life, and loads the fountain with the riches of health, and sends it on its mission of mercy, to nourish, build up and sustain this mortal tenement of ours.

Besides acting as eliminative organs, to free the blood from impurities, there is another very important office which the large majority of physiologists ascribe chiefly to the lungs. I allude to the phenomena of animal heat. The atmosphere we breathe consists of a mixture, in different proportions, of oxygen, nitrogen, carbonic acid and watery vapor. These gases are combined in accordance with fixed natural laws, constitute healthy atmosphere, but after having been taken into the lungs and expelled it is found to have undergone such a change as to be entirely incapable of sustaining life, and inimical to health. Although retaining its original elements, their relative proportions are so changed as to form new compounds. First, its temperature is elevated ; second, there is an increase of carbonic acid ; third, its oxygen is diminished, and fourth, the watery vapor is augmented. Now, the theory of animal heat is this : When the air and dark venous blood from the left side of the heart meet at the lungs, oxygen and nitrogen are absorbed by the blood from the air in the air cells, which causes the blood to change to a bright red color. These gases, which are combustible, are then carried by the blood through the arteries and capillaries to every part of the body, where, from worn out particles of the vital fluid, carbon is formed, which uniting chemically with oxygen, produces combustion, which evolves heat, thus keeping up the temperature of the body—exactly the same as that phenomena we witness by the burning of wood in our stoves. But, as to just how this happens in the tissues of the body, the exact nature of these combustibles, and why the whole body is not in imminent danger of consuming itself, remain a matter of the darkest doubt, notwithstanding the boasted researches of our most eminent physiologists. In view of the suspicious uncertainty of this accepted theory of animal heat, and with all due respect for the opinions of those who have investigated these questions scientifically further than I can ever hope to do, I must look upon this theory as utterly untenable, firmly believing, as I do, that chemistry has nothing to do with the phenomena of life. Its province is only in the realms of decay and destruction, so that when chemical action takes place within a living organism it is in opposition to the life process, and constitutes disease and destruction, just in proportion to the extent of its action. Therefore, I would prefer to ascribe the whole phenomena of animal heat, and, indeed, all other physiological phenomena, to the action of vital force, that inherent life principle resident in every organized body, building up constantly, and ever protecting, to the fullest extent of its ability, every fibre from all other forces that tend to destroy the organism.

Does not this idea strike you as more rational than that of animal heat being the result of chemical interchanges taking place between gases in the body, when chemistry herself proves that this result would soon destroy the whole system?

However, there is one great fact which all theories unite on, and every investigation of this subject points alike to, viz.: The lungs play a grand part in this great drama of life; that, just in proportion to the lung capacity, do we judge of the vital stamina of the individual, and, in like measure, as we are scrupulous in breathing pure air, and plenty of it, careful in the protection of these organs, persistent in their healthful exercise, may we expect to maintain a normal standard of vitality. To live is to breathe. Verily, the breath of the body is the life thereof.

PROF. ESMARCH'S BLOODLESS OPERATION.

JUST about this time there is considerable being said about Esmarch's Bloodless Operation, and many extravagant laudations are written in its behalf. But the reader may inquire, what is Esmarch's operation? We answer, it is an operation preparatory to an operation. Or, in other words, it is a mode of preparation for a surgical operation which has recently been brought into notice by Professor Esmarch, of Berlin. Of course, as it has been introduced, or brought into notice, by a Professor, we dare not pass it by without a thorough examination. The apparatus consists in an elastic rubber bandage, or sheet rubber, about two or three inches wide and about three or four feet long, and a ring of unvulcanized rubber, or a strong rubber cord. In most cases when a limb is to be amputated, or any other surgical operation is to be performed, the application of the elastic bandage should begin at the tips of the fingers or toes of the limb to be operated upon and extend up the limb to the body, or at least above the point of the proposed operation, drawing it sufficiently tight to force all the blood from the limb. Then the rubber ring or strong rubber cord, just referred to, is applied just above the point of the proposed surgical operation with such force as to completely prevent the return of the blood, after which the elastic bandage, first described, is removed, and the surgical operation is to commence at once. The advantages claimed for this operation are that it prevents the loss of blood during the operation, especially the larger ones, and more speedy and complete healing process after the operation, because of the saving of blood, in which the vitality of the body mainly exists; and it also enables the surgeon to make very difficult dissections with greater facility, and permits the easy extraction of foreign bodies, because their form, location, etc., can be more easily seen in the absence of blood, etc. On the other hand, it appears that several objections are alleged against this operation; amongst which are that the pressure necessary for the proper application of the bandage and constricting band may so impair or destroy the vitality of the part to which it is applied as to produce, or at least favor the appearance of gangrene, and consequent entire destruction of the limb to which it is applied, or the whole body; or to produce injury to large nerve trunks, thereby giving rise to partial or complete paralysis. Excessive, and even fatal, hemorrhages have followed this operation, and have been supposed to result as a consequence of the great arterial reaction which takes place after the removal of the constricting ring. It is also said that in some cases excessive plethora of internal organs has taken place, which gave rise to gangrene and death. And last, but not least, it has been said that poisonous fluids have been forced from ulcers through the tissues into the general circulation, by which true blood poisoning has taken place, from which various unfavorable symptoms have resulted, and even fatal effects followed. Again, it has been said that this operation is admissible in cases where the system is somewhat vigorous, as in the meridian of life, because there is a strong predisposition to sloughing following operations of this kind in very young or very aged persons. Our observation of the results following operations of this kind has been too limited to justify a decided opinion; but, so far as it has gone, the impression has been unfavorable. When we consider the effect of compressing a limb, or even a finger, tightly for any considerable time, where no surgical operation is performed, or even needed, we confess that we can not deduce any very favorable impressions of Professor Esmarch's Bloodless Operation, especially when we are told by its friends that "to continue the operation more than one hour is extremely dangerous," and when we consider also that the operation is only applicable to the limbs. We hope that the profession will note all important facts relating to this operation, and report the results. C.

DIGESTION.

Digestion is the reduction of food to a fluid state for the nourishment of the body. This includes the mastication and insalivation of particles of food taken into the mouth. For this purpose the teeth are given, and so formed as to be of the greatest service in dividing into small particles the solids necessary to afford nourishment. During the act of eating, the salivary glands, situated in the cheeks, pour out a fluid which is necessary to prepare the food for digestion, as well as to soften and facilitate its passage to the stomach. This fluid has a chemical action on the food by which the process of digestion is rendered easier, and the stomach relieved of a vast amount of labor. It is, then, of the utmost importance that this secretion is not vitiated by tobacco or liquor, or diluted with tea or coffee while in the act of eating.

After the food is masticated, it passes, by the act of swallowing, into the esophagus, before entering which it meets with a valve called the epiglottis, which guards the entrance to the lungs, and closes on its approach, but opens after the food has passed. In the stomach it is acted upon by gastric juice, which is largely composed of hydrochloric acid, secreted in its mucous membrane, which changes the digestible portion into a new substance called chyme, which is then passed through the pyloric orifice into the second part of the alimentary canal, called the duodenum. In the duodenum it is now subjected to the action of bile, supplied by the gall duct, and the fluid of the pancreatic and other glands, whereby its chemical properties are again changed, and chyle is formed. This now passes out of the duodenum into the jejunum and ileum, where its nutritive properties are absorbed by the lacteals, conveyed to a receptacle, and mounts, through a perpendicular tube called the thoracic duct, from whence it passes into the left subclavian vein, near the heart, and is carried into the circulation. That part unfitted to nourish the system is discharged through the emunctories.

The imperfect mastication tends to retard the process of digestion, and this state may also be produced by disease of the salivary glands. When the supply of saliva is deficient or in excess, we usually find that, sooner or later, irritative dyspepsia will ensue.

The gastric fluid, which supplies the power of digestion, is a sharp, biting liquid. Its component parts are acid and a peculiar matter called pepsin, which is really a sort of ferment. Acids alone will not dissolve meat, or do it very slowly, but pepsin and acid will act as a solvent upon all the proteides in our food.

Then if we give the flagging stomach both acid and pepsin, we renew or re-supply the means of carrying on digestion, without having recourse to its own capital or strength. Under the idea that there is always enough acid in the stomach, pepsin alone is given as a medicine, or a mixture of several things containing actual pepsin. The great want of the stomach in dyspepsia is not pepsin alone, but proper acid.

The stomach, notwithstanding we use it so roughly, is a very sensitive and touchy organ, and becomes offended when we offer it additional acid, and ceases to secrete even the little it was pouring out before. On the other hand, by the common physiological law that things act as a stimulant because they are unlike, the presence of an alkali spurs the stomach on to pour out more acid, and hence a little gentle alkali is the best stomachic in most cases of derangement of the digestive apparatus. R.

REMARKS.

The foregoing, from "R.," has many good points in it, but we can not accept it in its totality, from the fact that it embodies the fallacy, as we believe, of a chemical digestion of the food. In our humble opinion, the entire process of digestion is above, beyond, independent of chemical laws and processes. From the beginning of the process, in the mouth, until the complete chylification of the food, we have it subjected to vital organic influences that the chemist has never yet been able to produce. All the secretions, saliva, gastric juice, pancreatic fluid, bile, and those from the intestinal mucous membrane, are entirely different from any of the products of the chemical laboratory. And the influence produced, and the changes effected upon the ingesta are entirely different from that which is produced by chemical agents; for, during the entire process of digestion, the substances taken as food, instead of being resolved into the original inorganic elements or compounds, as the chemical forces constantly tend to do, they are more highly vitalized—rendered more complex in their nature, more nearly approximated to the tissues of the human system. We therefore conclude that the process of digestion is purely and solely a vital one; that the changes are different from chemical changes, and that they are effected by a power, force or influence above and independent of chemical forces.

And when we take into consideration the fact that the chemical theorists are not in unison among themselves as to the constituents of gastric juices, some claiming lactic and others hydrochloric acid as the substance giving the fluid its acidity, we are still more fully convinced that they know but little about it, and are not disposed to accept the proposition that the process of digestion is chemical in its nature. More than this, if the proposition be correct, why can not the chemist make the fluids in his laboratory and digest food? We venture the prediction that the chemist will never be able to make chyme or chyle, much less blood.

The only time that we have a chemical digestion of the food is when we eat too much, or have a derangement of the stomach to such an extent that fermentation takes place, and our meals, as we express it, "sour" on our stomachs. This is indeed chemical digestion, and the kind that the chemist is most likely to produce.

Again, the resultants of a chemical analysis of an organic fluid, as the gastric juice, should not be regarded as equivalent to the fluid itself. For instance, alcohol and grain oil are obtained from a chemical destruction of corn, but will the union of alcohol and grain oil make corn? Can the chemist take the resultants of a chemical analysis of any organic substance and unite them again and make that substance? If he, therefore, should find lactic or hydrochloric acid by a chemical analysis of gastric juice, does it necessarily follow that hydrochloric acid is gastric juice, or that it exists therein as hydrochloric acid? Or, if he finds the acid and pepsin, must we conclude that the union of those two substances forms the gastric juice. We think not. It seems to be the province of chemical forces to pull down and disorganize all organic substances. Therefore, the process of digestion being directly the reverse of this, it can not be said to be a chemical process.

* * *

THE Third Session of the Physio-Medical College of Indiana will commence on the 19th of October, 1875, and continue eighteen weeks.

ADULTERATION OF MEDICINE.

CAYENNE PEPPER, GINGER, ETC.

MESSRS. EDITORS: I am well pleased with the practical and useful character of the PHYSIO-MEDICAL JOURNAL AND REFORM ADVOCATE. It contains a large portion of short, pointed articles, especially interesting and profitable to the masses of the people, instead of long dissertations on the imaginary different diseases, which have no decided and permanent characteristics by which the most learned and experienced physicians can distinguish the most common cases of disease "from others that resemble them." [See my criticisms, page 59, No. 19.] I like particularly the articles on the history of Physio-Medicalism, and shall be very glad to see the proposed history of its colleges, from the same pen; because I know that the writer has had an excellent opportunity to observe their working and the results, and is well qualified, by ability and honesty, to do justice to what he may undertake.

But my object now is to allude to the adulteration of medicines, of which I have seen many, particularly of those of foreign growth, as cayenne pepper, ginger, etc. For this the only sure remedy is to either purchase them in the crude state or to produce them ourselves and gather and prepare them with our own hands. Red pepper, as good as the African, can be grown in our Gulf States, and I have seen it grown as good (strong) at 45° of latitude as any case of disease requires. I have no doubt that ginger, under the same circumstances, would flourish as well. Whoever would learn to what extent medicines are adulterated may be abundantly satisfied by perusing a "Report on the Adulteration of Medicines," prepared some years ago by Professor Thomes O. Edwards, formerly of the Ohio Medical College.

But the articles of our simple indigenous *Materia Medica* are extensively adulterated, both by mixing with them inferior articles and by using the genuine gathered in a wrong season, or a decaying state. Hence practitioners, heads of families, and all persons who would use the best means of preserving their health, should gather and prepare, with their own hands, all that grow within their reach, and should administer them in person. [See the subject of "Concentrated Remedies," in my "Theory and Practice," page 360–7.] They will have of many articles much more than they want, which they can exchange with other persons for articles which grow more abundantly in other places, or they can sell them to apothecaries for cash or foreign productions, as cayenne, ginger, cloves or other spices, gum myrrh and the like.

I have always been in the habit of collecting, from all that grows in my way, enough of the best articles of the several medical classes, relaxants, astringents, stimulants, alterants, lubricants, nervines, and their nearest representatives, to supply all my wants for the year, and I have procured the aid of my patients, or their children, in collecting, at proper seasons, the best articles that grow in their vicinities, in cleansing them from all defects, as bad fruits, dead leaves, bark or roots, in curing them properly and bringing them to me in their purest state. I have paid for these in practice, in books, Recorders, or in other mediums which I have sold to practitioners who wanted them, or to apothecaries for manufacturing into powders, extracts, tinctures, syrups, pills, etc., of which I generally manufacture myself enough for my own purposes. To this preparation of pure medicines I attribute a large share of the remarkable success of my forty years practice — a success I have never known to be surpassed. Let your journal give plain, practical information on these subjects, and it will soon be well sustained, and an efficient supporter of your college. So mote it be. Its friend, A. Curtis.

FIRST DISTRICT PHYSIO-MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, OF INDIANA.

FORTY-SECOND SESSION.

The First District Physio-Medical Association of Indiana convened at Muncie May 27th, 1875.

President E. Bufkin, M. D., in the Chair.

The following named gentlemen were present: Professor Davidson, Drs. D. B. and B. D. Snodgrass, G. W. and A. C. Potter, Wood, Ricks, Wilkinson, Runyan, Hockett, Weeks, Jones, Stradley, Stone and Constable.

Minutes of last meeting read and approved.

Constitution read and signed by J. F. Stephenson, who became a member of the Association.

The Convention then proceeded to the consideration of Pneumonitis, which was discussed at some length by Drs. Davidson, Weeks, Hockett, Snodgrass, Runyan and others.

This disease seems to have been very prevalent and violent this spring, proving very fatal in some localities, under the *regime* of the "regulars." But one or two cases were lost where sanative medication had been used. The treatment recommended was stimulation and relaxation, counter stimulation, baths, warm packs to the chest, etc.

Diarrhea and Dysentery were discussed at some length, with profit to at least one member of the Association.

A case of peculiar interest was presented by Dr. Potter, pronounced by the chief surgeons of that part of the country to be enlargement of the testes, but was decided by the members of the Convention to be Hydrocele. It occurred in a child three years of age, and had been under Allopathic treatment for some time.

The next meeting of the Association will be held at Greensboro', August 26th, 1875.

The Association is under many obligations to G. W.

Potter, M. D., and his estimable lady, A. C. Potter, M. D., for the courteous manner in which its members were treated by them, and for the pains taken to make them enjoy their visit. A. J. Reeves, *Secretary.*

MUSHROOM POISONING.

DR. J. W. CRISMOND.

Was called May 24, at 8 A. M., to see Mrs. S., aged 35, of sanguine, lymphatic temperament. Found her condition as follows: Surface cold, tongue coated slightly and light bluish in color, a considerable degree of epigastric distress, nausea and vomiting, vertigo, and pupils dilated. I queried as to what she had eaten, and was told she had used her ordinary diet.

Was somewhat at a loss in diagnosing the case, but concluded that it was a difficulty of a malarious character, with a tendency to congestion of the stomach and at the base of the brain, and prescribed accordingly. Informed the husband that I considered the case a bad one; that she should be watched closely, and if any change occurred that I should be notified at once. At 2 P. M. I was summoned in great haste, as my patient was said to be in spasms. I found her indeed in a deplorable condition, with symptoms to me of poisoning, but inquiry failed to elicit anything which would give me a clue to its nature. I administered anti-spasmodics freely, but without any appreciable effect. In my maneuverings about in preparing medicines I detected a basin of mushrooms behind a bucket on the table, and the thought at once flashed upon my mind that here was a key to the solution of the problem. I made inquiries of her husband again as to what she had been eating; if she had been eating any of the mushrooms. He answered in the negative; but her sister-in-law, being present, informed me that, on Wednesday the 19th, at dinner, she did eat of the mushrooms, and that within fifteen minutes thereafter she was taken with nausea and vomiting, vertigo, etc., but, supposing it to be a slight irritation of the stomach, did nothing for it till I was called.

The case was indeed becoming alarming in its character, completely unconscious, vomiting, and spasms about every thirty minutes; tossing from one side of the bed to the other, and manifesting extreme distress. It became impossible to administer medicines by the mouth, and everything portended a speedy dissolution. Nothing seemed to give relief; the patient frothing at the mouth as one suffering with hydrophobia. In this extreme I informed the husband of the probable result of the case, and asked for counsel. Dr. Bufkin, of Daleville, was called, and after careful examination of the case in all its bearings, coincided in the opinion of its being a case of poisoning by mushrooms, and suggested a pretty thorough lobeliaizing of the patient. Thereupon we administered, by injection, the following:

℞

Lobelia Seed, Powdered,		**ijss.**
Ginger,	**"**	**ʒss.**
Sweet Milk		**℥iv—.**

M—.

The patient was kept fully under the influence of this until midnight, which produced the most happy effect. The spasms subsided at 6 P. M., and by 3 or 4 A. M. of the next day all the restless tossing was gone, and the patient quietly slept.

Feeling that I had my case on the up grade, I ordered her to have, on waking, thirty drops of third preparation, administered in water every half hour, and that the extremities and course of the spine be rubbed with a stimulating liniment. The case progressed favorably, and is now quite well.

The tongue in this case was peculiar; a rather greenish mottled appearance in the central portion, with whitish yellow edges. The bowels obstinately constipated. The effect of the lobelia in this case demonstrates its virtue as an anti-poison.

Chesterfield, Ind., June 15, 1875.

RECOLLECTIONS OF LIFE AND MEDICAL PRACTICE.

BY AN ORIGINAL PHYSICIAN—DR. JOSEPH GRAY.

No. 2—"The Better Way."

To be brief, having finished my studies with the "old school" practitioners, and being qualified, in their opinion, to go into practice, I sought and found the "better way," alluded to in No. 1. Having studied with Dr. Ford, a Botanic physician, and reflecting and observing, and later visiting and practicing with Dr. Samuel Patterson, at Portsmouth, the conclusion of it all is that a fever indicates an effort of nature to throw off disease, and a physician, to be of any use, must always assist nature, never thwart her operations. Therefore, the "better way" of treating a fever is to cleanse the stomach, open the capillary vessels that they may freely throw off all obstructions; keep the head cool, the feet warm, and avoid exposure to drafts. For instance, in case of violent fever from taking sudden cold, if the stomach is not foul, go to bed at once, with a warm (not hot) free-stone at the feet; take (being in bed) a small dose of composition tea or pennyroyal, and get into a gentle perspiration, and the fever will rapidly abate. If not readily thrown into a perspiration, throw a newspaper over the face, a simple but efficacious mode of producing the desired effect, and continue to take warm drinks until perspiration is produced; then be rubbed up with hot flannel, or first washed with castile soap and water and then rubbed with hot flannel. If the stomach is foul, the best way will be to take a lobelia emetic along with the sweat, to be repeated if necessary. Keep the stomach clean and the skin moist, and fever will die without being "killed," and leave the patient alive and well.

POISONING BY CYPRIPEDIUM.

In a short paper in the *Pharmacist*, Mr. H. H. Babcock states certain experiences which lead to the supposition that various species of *Cypripedium* possess a similar toxic action to that attributed to *Rhus Toxicodendron.* For four or five seasons Mr. B. had carefully avoided the latter plant; but despite all precautions, he at last realized the symptoms of severe Rhus poisoning. In June, 1872, after gathering many specimens of *Cypripedium Spectabile*, he observed that his hands were stained with the purplish secretion peculiar to the plant, and shortly afterwards he experienced an irritation of the eyes which, by next day, had developed into unmistakable symptoms of poisoning. A review of the notes of previous years recalled the fact that other poisonings—hitherto attributed to Rhus—had always followed the days on which *C. spectabile* or *C. pubescens* had been collected. During the seasons of 1873 and 1874 he was particularly careful to avoid touching these plants, and thus escaped a result which had been before considered almost inevitable. Mr. B. is convinced that, at least upon himself, the action of Cypripedium and Rhus is precisely similar, and thinks that it is possible that, in other cases, the toxic action of the former plant is wrongly attributed to the latter.—*New Remedies.*

A NEW MATRIMONIAL ALLIANCE.

THE Allopathic factions of this city and county have effected a reunion of their dissenting elements. We hope that the new organization will cultivate a spirit of toleration more in accordance with manly characteristics than that which prevails with many of the organizations of that school. We do not understand that this alliance affects the college status here. Whether it is intended to keep up the war in that respect we do not know, but from the character of some of the elements in the college fight we suppose it will still continue to be war to the knife. Some men, you know, will never be satisfied unless they can sit down on everybody else. Go on, bretheen; we suppose there is glory in it.

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COMMUNICATIONS, reports of interesting cases, papers upon scientific subjects, any matter of interest to the profession, will be published in the JOURNAL. All, therefore, who have anything of general interest to communicate are respectfully solicited to send it in. All will be heard, each contributor being responsible for his own productions. The managers of the JOURNAL reserve the right to criticise or reject propositions advanced through its pages, as they may see fit. Hear all, accept truth from any, have principles, exercise charity.

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INSTEAD of the transactions of the Physio-Medical Association of Indiana being published in a separate journal, as heretofore, they will be published in this journal, and those wishing to know what is going on had better send in their subscriptions. Several interesting and scientific papers were read, which, together with the discussions, will make the transactions more desirable.

THE PHYSIO-MEDICAL ASSOCIATION ON INDIANA held its thirteenth annual session in this city on the 8th, 9th and 10th of this month. A very interesting time, with fair attendance, characterized the sessions. Those of the profession who absent themselves from these meetings certainly stand in their own light. That which is for the common good benefits each one. And, as thorough organization is beneficial to the cause, so perfecting and keeping up these organizations will benefit each member thereof.

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THE *Medical Review* comes to us with its usual spicy variety. The June number contains the report of "A Singular Case," by O. S. Runnels, M. D., of this city, which is interesting; also, a variety of other articles, from various sources, quite readable in character.

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Physio-Medical Journal

AND

REFORM ADVOCATE.

VOL. I. *INDIANAPOLIS, JULY, 1875.* No. 7

THE VITAL FORCES, AND THEIR RELATION TO OTHER FORCES.

ONE of the ancient philosophers said that the universe was composed of mind and matter; another one said it was composed of matter and motion. Both these propositions, though true to a certain extent, are quite indefinite and unsatisfactory. A more correct and satisfactory statement of the case is, that "matter and the motive powers constitute the sum total of the universe." In order to a correct understanding of the subject, it may be well for us to contemplate the nature or qualities of matter, and the motive powers; and hence, in the first place we inquire, What is matter, and what are its properties or qualities? A certain philosopher says that "matter is anything which is capable of being recognized by one or more of the senses—anything that we can touch, taste, see, smell or hear." All philosophers agree that matter possesses two essential properties: extension and impenetrability. There are other properties of matter, but they are not universal or necessarily always present, as malleability, durability, fusibility, flexibility, ductility, contractility, expansibility, etc. It might be well to remark that there are about sixty-eight simple substances called specific elements of matter; but about one-half of them are so very rare that very little is known of their properties or uses; and hence, from the different combinations of the other half are formed about all the materials, both organic and inorganic, with which we have to do. Of all the material in the universe there is no capability of motion, inertia being the natural state or condition in which it is always found to exist, whether in an organic or inorganic state; it only acts as it is acted upon by some one or more of the motive powers referred to.

This brings us properly to the consideration of the motive powers. The first of which we shall notice, and the one which is most universal we call *gravitation*, which acts upon all substances with a force corresponding to the amount of matter which they contain, without regard to the form, quality or temperature. There is no other motive power so universal as this one; and whilst its tendency, as it relates to a large body (as the earth), is to bring everything to a state of rest upon its surface, yet we are told by philosophers that it is this motive power or force, acting upon the celestial bodies of the universe, which keeps them in their orbits, and will continue to do so whilst time lasts. This proposition, that gravitation tends to bring everything to a state of rest, and yet that it perpetuates the motions of the whole planetary system, seems somewhat paradoxical; but the master minds of the age, and those of ages past, have accepted the proposition as true, and hence, because we can not present a better theory, we must accept this one, and the necessary deduction, that if this motive power should be suspended but for a single moment of time, "the wreck of matter and crush of worlds" would immediately occur.

We recognize another motive power or force, which though different from gravitation in many essential particulars, is nevertheless as clearly seen. This we call *chemical affinity.* So far as we know, it never acts upon matter except when substances of different kinds or qualities are brought into immediate contact, as acids and alkalies, metals and fluids, or acids or alkalies when brought into contact with other substances. This power changes simple elements or compounds into other compounds, the elements of which bear certain definite proportions to each other.

In this discussion it will be observed that we leave out the question of catalysis, about which there is considerable doubt in the minds of many. In all the changes produced upon matter by chemical affinity, we see it has no power, though manipulated by skillful hands, to produce an organic substance of any kind; but on the contrary, when it acts upon organized matter, its tendency is *always* to destroy and not to build up into organic form.

The next motive power which we notice is called *electricity*, by the action of which upon matter, under certain circumstances, new combinations are produced; but none of these combinations are organic—always inorganic, as the combination of oxygen and hydrogen in producing water, by passing an electric spark through a bladder filled with these gases, and many other examples which might be stated. Again, by its action compounds are often destroyed or separated into countless indefinite proportions. So we see that at best this power only stimulates organization under certain circumstances; but under no circumstances can it produce even the lowest animal or vegetable organization.

The next motive power which we will notice briefly is called *magnetism*, which has the power to act directly upon metals only, to give some of them polarity, or in other words, to cause a suspended bar of metal an inclination to point to the north, with only slight variations.

Again, there is a motive power about which there has been considerable discussion as to its relation to organized bodies, some contending that it is only electricity as developed under certain circumstances; whilst others say that it (*galvanism*) "is heat, light, electricity and magnetism united in combination, or in simultaneous action, sometimes one and sometimes another of them predominating, and thus producing more or less of the effects of each." It will be seen that this definition is not very clear nor satisfactory, though it comes from high authority; nor does it admit of even an inference that this force has any power to produce an organization; and yet, because it sometimes stimulates some of the organs of animals to action, some have embraced the fallacy that galvanism is *the* motive power which controls organic action. And yet, in all attempts to prove the correctness of this theory they have utterly failed.

Then there is the motive power we call *light*, which seems indispensable to the growth and well-being of many vegetable and animal organizations; and especially is it necessary to the health and comfort of man; but it is admitted by all to be wholly incapable of producing either vegetables or animals, and so we pass to notice another motive power to which has been ascribed greater results than any we have yet noticed.

Hippocrates, who was the great medical oracle of his age, said, "that nature was *heat* or *caloric*," and many celebrities who have lived long since his day have embraced the same theory, notwithstanding the most superficial observer knows that heat often destroys organization in the least possible time; and hence, we see that heat can not produce organization, though it may be necessary to the comfort and well-being of man and other organizations. Further than this, we know that caloric has by its action upon all bodies of every kind a tendency to expand and further to separate the particles of which all bodies are composed.

In the contemplation of the subject thus far, we find that, except the magnetic power, all the motive powers act upon substances without special reference to organization. But now we come to the consideration of motive powers which are peculiar to organizations alone: the powers which pre-exist to organization, and control it from the moment of its commencement to end of life. This motive power as it applies to man, who stands at the head of all animal organization, is what Hippocrates called *nature;* what Stahl called *anima,* and what others have called *ens, vis vitæ, life,* and what Elijah the prophet called the *soul,* when he cried, "O Lord my God, I pray thee let this child's *soul* come into him again. And the Lord heard the voice of Elijah, and the *soul* of the child came into him again, and he revived."—I Kings, xvii. As there is a motive power which we call *life* or *vital force,* which we know belongs to every human being, so we reasonably infer that there is a life-power or vital force peculiar to every animal and vegetable organization in the universe. To repeat: there is a motive power, a vital force, which pre-exists to every form of organization, controls its growth, and presides over and directs all its operations peculiar to it, until some superior force impairs or destroys the organization, and the vital force is driven from it, when we say it is *dead,* or, as applied to man, we say "the *soul* has departed." But we may be asked, How do we *know* there is a motive power peculiar to all organizations, or how do we know that all the phenomena of life which we observe are not the result of some or all the motive powers first before mentioned? We answer first, that by parity of reasoning we know that peculiarity of organization must result from peculiarity of the force which organized it—that all motive powers act only in their peculiar manner upon matter. Secondly, we know that the natural tendency of the six motive powers first mentioned is to destroy organizations of all kinds, instead of producing any of the phenomena of life, unless they are controlled by a superior force, as applied to the organization. For example: We see that if the body was not controlled by a superior power there would be no capability of locomotion, or even power in the body to maintain an erect position, because the force of gravitation would keep the body in a state of rest or immobility. We see that chemical affinity *always* destroys all forms of organization when they are not controlled by a superior power—that destruction of organization is its invariable tendency. We also see that electricity destroys all organizations when it has full control, and that in the least time possible; hence, it can not be the power which controls organization. Nor can it be magnetism, because it tends to move matter in one certain direction only. Nor can it be galvanism, because, like chemical affinity, it in many cases tends to the speedy disorganization of bodies over which it has control. Nor can light be the controlling power which produces and preserves organization; for though, as has been stated, under certain circumstances it may favor the development and perpetuation of animals and vegetables, yet, when it has full control, it tends to change and finally to destroy them. Nor can the phenomena of life be properly attributed to caloric or heat, because, as has been stated, it speedily destroys all organized bodies of all kinds when it has entire control. Therefore we are brought to the inevitable conclusion that all organizations are controlled by a *motive power*, *vital force*, or *life power;* that in the human organization the life force—vital force—builds up and controls the organism, independent of all other forces or motive powers; that these are brought into use by this vital force, but always act in obedience or subserviency to it. Further than this, we are brought to the conclusion that there is a vital force—life power—peculiar to each organized being or vegetable, and hence there are as many vital forces as there are animals and vegetables in the universe; and therefore, that the doctrines of the "transmigration of soul," or the "transmutation of seeds," are vagaries which properly belong only to the dark ages of the past.

PUERPERAL CONVULSIONS.—A CONTRAST.

BY W. A. SPURGEON, M. D.

Case No. 1.—A young woman in first confinement. Labor came on at "full time." Patient had convulsions at each paroxysm of suffering, the intensity of which increased at each recurrence. An "Old Schooler" was called, who began at once to treat much after the old-school plan. Patient grew worse for some days, when a consultation was called. Hypodermic medication then played its part to no effect except for the worse. The doctors then took away the child. Convulsions still continued. Morphine and its associate agents were administered to no effect. The friends then proposed sending for Dr. Chute, but the "regulars" would not submit to that. Treatment was continued for some days. At this juncture I came home from the college. A messenger was sent for me at once, but the high waters prevented him from reaching me. They lost both mother and child.

Case No. 2.—Woman about 17 or 18 years of age; first pregnancy. Took sick while at a neighbor's house eating dinner, she being only in her seventh month. Went to her mother-in-law's, not expecting to be confined. I was sent for that night, and found her very restless, blind, and suffering from a severe pain in the head. Semi-conscious; pulse slow and weak; surface warm, but feet and hands cool. Gave a tea of composition. The pain in the frontal region continued to increase in severity; the semi-consciousness gave place to complete unconsciousness. This state was soon followed by convulsions of the most terrific type. Patient could take nothing by the stomach. The intervals between the convulsions were occupied by the patient in the most uncontrollable plunging about, making it necessary for several persons to guard her all the time. Gave indications of the most intense suffering. I prepared a strong infusion of lobelia and cimicifuga, into the first half-pint of which I put enough stimulation to move the bowels, and gave at once by the bowels. This had the effect to move the bowels. I then gave the above infusion with a moderate amount of stimulation, and had it retained by means of a compress. Applied large mustard plasters to feet, stomach and back of neck. Put plenty of boiled ears of corn about the body, with jugs of hot water to feet, and retained them there as best we could, which was very difficult, seeing she was a complete maniac. This treatment was continued through the night (using plenty of capsicum to the surface), and the next day and night. On the morning of the third day the more violent symptoms began to give way and the patient to lie still. I then gave by stomach (as she could begin to swallow):

℞

Fl. Ext. Lobelia,	ʒi
" " Caulophyllum,	ʒiv
" " Cypripedium,	ʒij

M.

Sig. Give 15 to 30 drops every half-hour.

As soon as the patient could take it I gave, leptandrin 3 gr., podophyllin 1 gr., quinine 2 gr.; a powder every four hours till it operated well. Next day found that the convulsions had not returned; patient quiet; hepatic had moved the bowels well; indications good. The medicine was continued, and at eleven and one o'clock the next day the hepatic and tonic were repeated to good effect.

Patient steadily improving, until the expiration of five days, when on visiting her I found labor coming on. This I assisted with an emmenagogue, and in three or four hours she gave birth to a female child. Both are doing well at this writing.

I might here state that some time elapsed before the child could be made to breathe. I finally succeeded, however, in restoring it.

As these two cases occurred within a few hundred yards of each other, and within a few weeks of each other, and as the people know the latter to have been equal to if not severer than the former, they see the contrast.

Freetown, Ind., June 13, 1875.

HUMBUGGING THE PEOPLE.

BY A. J. REEVES, M. D.

"WHERE ignorance is bliss, 'tis folly to be wise," is an old maxim which may all be true enough in a general way, but when we see so many of our modern physicians trying to keep the people in ignorance of the nature of their ailments, we can not say that blissful ignorance is always so sweet, after all. It is a fact not lightly to be passed by, that too many of our physicians of the present day seem to be trying to keep the common masses in darkness pertaining to anything relating to the science of medicine. Only just the other day I was called to see a lady afflicted with gastralgia, who, in speaking of her former history, incidentally referred to a throat difficulty with which she had formerly been troubled, and which Dr. —— had said was the *glottis*. Fearful malady! What a dreadful disease to be found in this nineteenth century! Yet it is only a case in point illustrating this spirit of egotism, bombast, and desire to keep the people in ignorance by imposing on their credulity.

Another great humbug, and one which perhaps is more extensively perpetrated than all others, which, while it serves to throw dust into the eyes of the people, also serves as a scapegoat for the ignorance of the doctor, is the great myth, *fever*. To such an extent have they been humbugged on this subject, and in such horror do they stand of it, that when the doctor—though he may be the veriest quack that ever strode a pair of pill-bags, and know as little of diagnostic indications as a Mississippi negro does of the Chinese calendar—says neighbor B. has the fever, they are almost ready to go for the undertaker to come up and plant him, no matter whether it be catarrhal or remittent, sthenic or asthenic. I doubt not that some do it from ignorance and inability to diagnose disease, but more do it from a desire to keep the people ignorant, that they may the more easily practice upon their credulity, and that the increasing knowledge of the people may not force them to abandon their old empiricism and prepare themselves for a more correct understanding of the principles of their profession. But some one may say, "The masses of the people are entirely ignorant of medicine and all that pertains to it. Would you have us stop and tell every patient just what particular tissue is at fault, and just how it has come from under the complete control of the life power?" I answer, No, I would not have you do all this, but I would have you to do your whole duty thoroughly and conscientiously—would have you to do as you would be done by; to thoroughly educate yourself to a complete knowledge of the art curative; tell your patients plainly what is the matter with them, if you know, and if you don't know tell them so, and not sneak off behind the miserable subterfuge, "Oh, he 's got the *fever.*" Teach them the art of avoiding disease; how to avoid its predisposing causes; how to live long, and to the best purpose, a cheerful, happy and healthy people.

Grant City, Ind., June 22, 1875.

LOBELIA INFLATA APPLIED LOCALLY.

BY ELI G. JONES, M. D.

During the past six years I have used lobelia in many hard cases, and I can truly say that it never failed in the time of need. It has its place and power for good to the patient. I will give a few illustrations of its local use in my daily practice.

Not long since I was called to see a man who had been knocked down by either running against something or having a substance pretty solid thrown at him, striking him in the eye. The eye was badly swollen; the conjunctiva so much inflamed that I could with difficulty obtain a view of the eye-ball, which was "blood-shot" and very painful. I ordered a solution of

℞ Tr. Arnica, . . ʒss
Water, ... ℥iii
Mix.

Apply to the eye-ball as soon as the swelling of the lids abated.

To the injured part I applied a poultice of equal parts of lobelia and slippery elm. Change once in two or three hours. This treatment pursued for twenty-four hours, and the patient could open his eye as well as ever. The slight redness of the ball that remained gave way by the continued use of the above solution and applied once in two or three hours.

Another case of a man kicked by a colt in one of his testicles. This important member swelled up to a large size, accompanied with fainting and vomiting by the patient. I applied a poultice of lobelia seed and slippery elm wet with tincture of lobelia. In a few hours the pain and inflammation subsided.

Some of my patrons get poisoned with what is known as poison ivy. For these cases I use equal parts of tincture lobelia and plantain leaves locally.

This spring I have had some hard cases of rheumatism of the neck. The patient would wake up in the morning unable to move the neck at all. The muscles of the back part of the neck swelled and were painful. Internal remedies had but little effect. Various liniments were used with no good results. Something must be done, or the allopath would soon be called "to put them to sleep." So I put on a poultice of equal parts of

℞ Pulv. Phytolacca root.
" Lobelia seed.
" Slippery Elm.
Mix.

Have the poultice wet with tr. Lobelia.

This was all the local treatment necessary in these cases.

A man working in a saw mill had strained the muscles of the arm by lifting and overtaxing them so that a hard swelling had formed in the auxillary space. The poultice of lobelia seed and slippery elm took down the swelling in one night.

Carbuncles are easily managed with this poultice if we can see them in the forming stage.

In diphtheria and scarlet fever the local application of lobelia to the throat is always attended with benefit. I use a poultice like the above, wet with equal parts of hot drops and tr. lobelia.

As a local application for erysipelas I use equal parts of

Lobelia seed . .	infusion.
Pussy Willow buds,	"
Elder flower,	"

Have this applied to the inflamed surface once in ten or fifteen minutes.

In the swelling of the face that accompanies dental neuralgia this remedy can always be depended on.

Probably all I have written may be familiar to some of your readers, yet it is well to have a review once in a while.

Enfield Center, N. H.

THE LONDON LANCET vs. NARCOTICS, ETC.

PHYSIO-MEDICALISTS have been warring against the use of narcotics, and cough mixtures, &c., containing narcotics, for many years, and yet because these things are fashionable, the people have still persisted in their use; more than this, the physicians of the fashionable (Allopathic) practice, have almost universally recommended them, and many physicians claiming distinction in Allopathic ranks have given certificates of their virtues even when used in secret preparations, often properly called "quack nostrums." But now comes the London Lancet, which stands at the head of Allopathic journals, and of course the nations are bound to give attention, seeing that the words come from so high a source, and it says:

"Anodynes, narcotics, cough mixtures and lozenges are practically of no good, but too often increase the debility and hasten the fatal end. The best method of easing cough is to resist it, with all the force of will possible, until the accumulation of phlegm becomes greater; then there is something to cough against, and it comes up with half the coughing. A great deal of the hacking and hemming of invalids is purely nervous or from force of habit, as is frequently shown by the comparative rarity of cough when persons are so much engaged as to not think about the cough."

Now that this opinion comes from so high a source, we hope the people will take heed and avoid the whole tribe of narcotic abominations as they would avoid a pestilence. C.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE

PHYSIO-MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

OF INDIANA.

Thirteenth Annual Session, June 8th, 9th and 10th, 1875.

SENATE CHAMBER, INDIANAPOLIS, IND., June 8, 1875.

The Physio-Medical Association of Indiana convened at 10 o'clock A. M. of June 8th, 1875, and was called to order by the President, B. F. Coffin, M. D.

Remarks were made by the President, Drs. Hasty, Stafford and others, relative to the general conduct of the Association, after which a motion to adjourn until 2 o'clock P. M. prevailed.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The Association met pursuant to adjournment.

The journal of proceedings of session of last year, as published, was adopted.

The Secretary made the following report, which was adopted:

SECRETARY'S FINANCIAL REPORT.

Receipts.

Received from former Treasurer, ...	$52 50
Received of Geo. Hasty, M. D., ...	5 00
Total receipts, ...	$57 50

Expenditures.

Paid for printing 500 copies transactions for 1874,	$34 00
Express charges, ...	95
Postage and stationery, ...	7 20
500 announcements, ...	3 00
Total expenditures, ...	$45 00
Balance in Treasury, ...	$12 35

Election of officers being in order, the present President, B. F. Coffin, M. D., was re-elected President by acclamation; G. N. Davidson, M. D., was elected Secretary, and Geo. Hasty, Assistant Secretary.

Remarks were made by Drs. Hasty, S. E. Carey and others, relative to the appointment of a committee to report at the next annual meeting upon the climatic influences upon the various forms of disease.

The President postponed the appointment of the committee until to-morrow.

On motion, Drs. Hasty, Stafford and Smith were appointed a committee to prepare resolutions of respect relative to Dr. C. E. Wood, deceased.

The regular business of the Association was then taken up. The first subject for consideration, viz: "What are poisons, and what are the characteristics by which they are known?" was discussed.

Dr. Hasty.—All men, in all ages, seem to have recognized the fact that there are certain substances or things in nature that are detrimental to human life, and should very properly be avoided; and by common consent they have been denominated poisons. But so indefinite and inexact has the term been used, that the greatest confusion exists as to what is meant by it. Men claiming to be scientific talk about *everything* being poison, everything being medicine, and the worst or most virulent poisons being the best medicines, &c. This indiscriminate application of the term to everything, to bread and butter and arsenic, milk and strychnine, mush and prussic acid, is certainly very unscientific. Science means something definite, fixed, unchangeable. If a thing is poison, it is so by virtue of inherent property of the thing itself, as is indicated by characteristic manifestations, and not by virtue of surrounding circumstances. However, so confused has become the popular idea upon this subject, that there seems to be nothing very definite in it. And we admit that it is pretty difficult to frame a definition that shall not be open to criticism. At all events, most of the definitions of poison demand an explanation in order that we may fully understand what the definer really means. But there are certainly some points or characteristics about a thing commonly denominated a poison, that beget for it this name. For instance, all men by common consent brand arsenic and strychnia as poisons. Why? Because of their well known death dealing properties. Because they will and do kill. And in these, and a large majority of the more active poisons, there seems to be no necessity of an argument to convince the people that they are poisonous, and that their disposition is to destroy, and therefore should be avoided. When it comes to some of the milder poisons, we have a greater difficulty to encounter in forming our conclusions. But there is but one rule in all cases, and the principles that apply in the more active, apply equally as well in the moderate and the weak.

We take it that science means something definite and fixed; and if we have any science in medicine at all, and we believe that we have, it is because of its definiteness, its fixedness of principle. All things in nature are governed by definite and fixed laws, and sustain definite and fixed relations toward each other. There is no possibility of getting above, beyond, or independent of law. This holds good in all departments. You are governed in accordance *with* or *by* law, and there is no possibility of escape. This is a proposition that we think all must admit. And in our investigations of this subject of poisons we must keep this proposition of the fixedness of things and this definite relationship before our minds.

At our last meeting I stated, that which you will all recognize as a truth, viz: that the human system was composed of certain parts—organs, or tissues—endowed with certain properties peculiar to themselves; some being possessed of one property and some of another—the muscles possessing the property of mobility, the nerves of sensibility, various organs or tissues of irritability, etc., etc., the human body having characteristics of its own, and the various parts thereof possessing properties peculiar to themselves. All things in nature are alike endowed with properties and characteristics peculiar to themselves. Moreover everything in nature sustains a definite and fixed relationship to the human system. And it is right here that our investigations must be made in determining the character of things as relating to the human system. The relationship of agents to the human organization, and the results brought about when they come in contact with it, is the key to the solution of the problem as to whether they be medicines or poisons.

In order, then, that this investigation may be untrammeled by modifying influences and circumstances, the system should be, as near as may be, in a healthy or physiological condition; your agent also free from impurities and in itself perfect. These conditions obtaining, you are the better prepared to note results produced by bringing the one in contact with the other, and can the more certainly determine the relationship, whether it be good or ill.

If, upon the administration of an agent, we find that its influence is to modify any or all the vital properties of the system or the tissues thereof in such a way as to impair their integrity, we may safely set it down as an agent unsuitable to enter the human organization, and place it with that class of agents known as poisons. For instance, we take the mercurials; we find that they modify the vital integrity of the blood, and not only that, but by and by all the tissues of the frame, even to the bones, become disintegrated; therefore we conclude that its relationship to the tissues of the body is not a salutary one, and that it should never enter the vital domain. The same with the opiates and narcotics generally. They modify the vital properties of the nervous system so as to seriously injure its integrity; therefore we will put them along with the murcurials—amongst the poisons. So on throughout the entire line of agents. A careful observation of results produced will enable us to arrive at a correct conclusion.

Again, you may take agents in a diseased condition, and we find that some can be used fully and freely until the object for which they are administered is fully accomplished, and no unpleasant results come about. But there are other articles that you can not, dare not use until the indications are fulfilled, for fear of a destruction of the patient. The one class you may double and triple the dose and no mischief comes about; but if you pursue the same course with the other an undertaker is soon demanded. The one you may use in the authorized dose for a length of time, and even ten-times the amount, if need be, until the object desired is accomplished, and no ill comes of it. The other must be used guardedly and not increased materially, nor long continued, lest mischief comes of it.

From these peculiar manifestations we therefore conclude that there must be some difference inherently in the agents themselves, over and above *quantity*, that brings about these different results.

It does not necessarily follow that death, nor even permanent injury, comes of taking those agents called poisons, for a variety of modifying circumstances may prevent such results, even when the poison is taken in large doses; but these modifying circumstances do not change the *character* of the agency. The conditions of system at time of taking the agent, the resistive or controlling power of the system itself, may modify results under special circumstances, but the *tendency* of the agent is always to produce its specific effect, whether it be medicine or poison. And because a man can sometimes take large amounts of a poisonous agent, and not die from the effects thereof, does not argue that the article is non-poisonous. As Dobell expresses it, "within certain limits the system has power to control the agent;" and it also is able to adapt itself to those deleterious influences and tolerate their presence for a considerable time, as is the case in the use of tobacco. Were it not for this power on the part of the system, the result of the tobacco habit would be far more speedily destructive than it is. But they *always* get in their work sooner or later. It may come with a crash and speedily destroy the integrity of the organization, or it may make its encroachments steadily and be years in doing its work. The *law* is, "you can not violate without suffering the penalty." The law's punishment may be delayed; it may not come for years, but it *will come*, you may rest assured.

The great point with Physio-Medicalists is to determine positively and make clear the point of this difference of character in agents. And to me it is very plain that the difference exists. And if we accept the proposition of one of the ancient philosophers, "that what all men of one ac-"cord believe to be, is," we certainly can not doubt the existence of poisons; for that there are poisons is admitted by all schools and sects in medicine, as well as by the masses of the people. But in addition to this common consent of all, we have the evidence and experience brought about by observation. Men die daily from the effects of agents that are daily used as medicine; and when one wants to "shuffle off" he resorts to some of these same agents, and generally does the work effectually. *That thing can not be curative in its nature that has a natural tendency to kill.*

We have, then, (1) inherent property of things; (2) definite and fixed relationship; (3) natural tendency to specific results upon contact. A poison, then, is an agent having specific properties and sustaining such a relationship to the human system that when brought in contact therewith it has a natural, inevitable tendency to impair the vital properties thereof, to produce death.

Dr. Huston queried as to the unity and indestructibility of the vital force. Was himself of opinion that all vital force was alike, the same in all living things, and that it was indestructible—that when it passed out of an animal or plant, that it was not destroyed, but passed into other animals or plants.

Dr. Hasty.—This question does not properly come within the scope of the proposition before the association, but for himself he would say that each animal and class of animals, each plant and class of plants had a vital force peculiar to themselves; that this power or force was not necessarily the same, indeed could not be the same, judging from results. The vital force of an animal always developed an animal, of a plant always a plant. The vital force in the grass seed always produced grass; that of the rag weed seed the rag weed; the burr produced the burr, and the thistle the thistle. The vital force of a species of animals always produced animals of that species. The dog always produced animals of his own kind. And the same throughout. Therefore he concluded that, inasmuch as the vital force of the timothy did not produce the thistle, nor that of the dog a monkey or man, there must be a difference in the vital forces thereof to give rise to these different results.

Dr. Bufkin was of opinion that, with all the talk about vital force, natural tendency, and specific properties, there was yet a difficulty in the way. Individuals have different temperaments, different constitutional peculiarities, and, as has been said by some, different vital forces. Now, with this condition of things obtaining, may not agents having a certain influence upon one, have an entirely different influence upon another? Each individual being in possession of a distinct vital force, with a peculiar constitutional make up, we would have to make our provings upon each one individually. And we have some illustrations of this. For instance, one individual is very susceptible to the influence of the *rhus*, and will be poisoned every time he goes about it, while another may handle it freely and no ill comes of it. Some can not tolerate the least amount of turpentine, while most individuals will feel no inconvenience from its use. Now, with this before us, we will find that what may be poison to one will be innoxious to another. So we find it difficult to determine the characteristics of a poison. Some will use very small amounts of a thing and experience certain results, while others may use large portions of the same thing with scarcely any results, and often none; so that *amounts* here seem to have somewhat to do with it.

Dr. S. M. White.—The ultimate or legitimate action of an article is always the same if it is pushed until its specific action is obtained. If the doctor will abrade the surface of the person not easily affected by the *rhus*, and then apply the article, the specific action will be the same as in the more sensitive person, and he will get like results. And he thought that the rule would hold good in all cases, whether the article used be poison or sanative. If they be pushed until their ultimate effects be produced, the general characteristics of the particular article will be the same in all cases.

Dr. Hasty.—Dr. Bufkin's proposition would leave us in a maze of uncertainty and utterly without scientific basis for our therapeutics. For if each and every individual man, as well as each plant of a species, possessed properties differing from all others of the same species, we would indeed be in the fog. That there are peculiar constitutional manifestations occasionally, there can be no doubt. He knew of one lady who could not use eggs; the smallest amount in any article of diet would be detected, and produce distressing sickness. Another would be terribly annoyed by the least particle of turpentine in any remedy used. But these are the *exceptions* and not the *rule.* So the doctor can not found a principle upon the exceptions to a rule. Take the rule which is established by a series of facts oft repeated, and not the exceptions based on a few cases of what the doctors are pleased to call idiosyncrasy. Man, as a species of animal, is endowed with certain characteristics of organization peculiar to the entire species. Each individual of the species may be in possession of its own vital force, yet all possess properties of organization common in character. These properties may differ in degree, but not in kind. The same is the case with plants. The different individual plants of a species, as peppermint, possess properties common to all. And herein consists the science as relates to therapeutics. The definiteness of the properties of one, as the human organization, and the fixedness of the properties of the other, as the medicinal agent, enable us to establish scientific principles as to the relationship of the two. And as a rule, the relationship is uniform. And the occasional exceptions, because of idiosyncrasy do not invalidate the rule. Dr. White's proposition certainly is correct; were it not, we would have a grand medley of our entire medical superstructure.

Dr. Newby.—A technical term obtains its signification from the consent of those in whose line of thought or work the term is used. A general term obtains its signification from the consent of the masses who use the term. The term poison is a general term; it has no technical signification, but is used by the masses of English speaking people, hence neither this body of physicians nor any other body of men may construct a definition for the term without the consent of the masses. For the definition of a word we are compelled to recognize the authority, a competent lexicographer, whose province it is to acquaint himself with the meaning which the people at large attach to it. The question which we are to discuss is, therefore, not *what is a poison;* but *what are the characteristics by which they are known?* It becomes us to make ourselves very clear upon this subject, for it is one of the distinguishing marks of Physio-Medicalism. We have claimed to make no use of poisons in our practice. We have claimed that every agent has its own specific property or quality, and that its sanative or non-sanative *tendency* determines its acceptance or rejection as a remedial agent. We have claimed that the poisonous *property* of an agent is in *quality* and not *quantity.*

With these claims admitted, I wish to ask a few questions. When the system needs nourishment, food is indicated. A certain quantity of food fulfills the indications; if a greater quantity is taken, the normal action of the vital force is impeded, the organism is injured and a temporary or permanent deleterious effect is produced, even to the disorganization of tissue. Whence these morbid conditions—from the *quality* or from the *quantity* of the agent?

If the condition of a patient indicates a stimulant, the physician may administer capsicum. A certain *quantity* of the agent fulfills the indication; but if an additional amount be administered, deleterious results may ensue.

To what are these results to be attributed—to the poisonous *quality* or to the poisonous *quantity* of the agent?

Again, it has been urged that all experiments testing the sanative or poisonous properties of agents should be made upon the healthy organism. Is any agent indicated in health, save one of nourishment? And if an agent be administered when not indicated, what is the result? Is the vital action preserved intact? And if not, is the action destroyed or impaired? And if the vital action is destroyed or impaired, is the agent administered poison to the normal or healthy condition of the system?

Adjourned till 8 A. M. of 9th.

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WE LEARN from the Carmi *Times* that our Prof. D. C. Wilson has been restoring sight to the blind down in "Egypt," Ill. A Mr. Sisk, who had been entirely blind for sometime, has, by submitting to the operation of making an artificial pupil, been so restored as to read print. The doctor is competent and worthy of success. He is a most judicious operator, and those afflicted with bad eyes can scarcely find a better man to treat them. He is located at Terre Haute.

———o———

A NEW MATERIAL FOR POULTICE.—An article is going the rounds in the medical journals at this time, to the effect that Irish moss is superior to flaxseed meal for a poultice. It is said to keep moist for eighteen or twenty hours, to be inodorous, to keep its place better than most articles, etc.—all of which, if true, entitles it to special attention, as the article can be procured at any drug store and is very cheap. We would like to have the profession give this matter some attention, as a good article for a poultice is often of great value. C.

PHYSIO-MEDICAL COLLEGE OF INDIANA.

THIRD ANNUAL ANNOUNCEMENT.

Session of 1875–76.

The Third Annual Session of the Physio-Medical College of Indiana will commence on Tuesday, October 19, 1875, and continue eighteen weeks.

The method of instruction in this college is by didactic lectures, aided by critical daily examinations, and attendance on hospital clinics at the City Hospital and Bobbs Free Dispensary. In addition to the clinics held in these two charities, which will be on four days of each week, the Faculty will, if possible, establish a college clinic, for the treatment of out patients. By this means it is hoped to give the students a more thorough and practical course of instruction, and at the same time give an opportunity for comparison of results of the two opposing modes of treating disease. This is a move in a new direction, but we are satisfied that the results will be most pleasing.

The faculty is being filled up and re-arranged for more thorough and efficient work, and the instructions in the various departments will be complete. It is determined by the faculty to give a more complete and comprehensive course of instructions than has ever been given in any of our reform colleges. The instructions will be strictly Physio-Medical in character. While we believe in the broadest *liberality*, and encourage *independence* in thought and investigation, we also believe in the fixedness of scientific principles, and the fitness of the relation of things, and therefore the inability of man to become independent of law, and are unable to see the consistency of his accepting sophisms and hypotheses as facts, independent of principles. Physio-Medicalism fears no truth in nature. Her mission is to dig down deep into the recesses of nature, ascertain her laws, and be governed thereby. So far, then, as these laws and principles are known, will the teachings be made to harmonize, and the farther development of the laws and principles encouraged.

Physio-Medicalism is not a change from the bad use of a bad agent to a worse use of the same, or from one destructive means to another more destructive in its character, as characterizes the *changes* in the "regular" (?) school; but it is a revolution on the old system; a genuine reformation; a substitution of a more simple, rational method of relieving the afflicted than by the destructive processes of the "old school."

The Physio-Medical College of Indiana offers superior advantages for instruction in this department of Reform Medicine, and young men, about entering a profession, are confidently referred thereto as being an institution worthy of support, and where they will get their money's worth.

Ladies are admitted on equal terms with gentlemen. For information thereto address

GEO. HASTY, M. D., Dean of Faculty,
No. 7 Circle Hall, Indianapolis, Ind.

———o———

A New Discovery.—Herr Fuscher says that one volume of castor oil dissolved in two or three volumes of spirits of wine (alcohol) will render paper so transparent that a drawing in pencil or India ink can be made, and thus a copy can be taken, of any kind, without trouble. After the copy is completed the paper may be dipped in spirits of wine, and all the oil will be dissolved and the paper restored to its original whiteness, without injury to the drawing. This gives an opportunity to copy anatomical plates and botanical preparations of various kinds with great exactness. C.

HAVE WE TWO BRAINS.

[The following, which is now going the rounds of the press, might create some surprise if it were not that we live in an age of wonders, and therefore we can not reasonably expect wonders to cease. But, notwithstanding all this, we have cause for surprise that men who claim to stand at the head of their profession should display such ignorance of plain facts as to distort the truth to make it suit some *whim* of the brain. A hundred years ago, before the truths of phrenology were so well known and generally acknowledged as they are now, such a theory as that lately announced by Dr. Sequard would not have created so much surprise; but now, that almost every one knows that the brain is double, or divisible into two hemispheres, each of which is a counterpart of the other—each having a multiplicity of organs corresponding in size and formation, it does seem astonishing that the question should now be asked, "Have we two brains?" As well might the question be asked, Have we two eyes, or two ears, or two hands, or two feet? because the functions referred to can be performed by organs located in both sides of the body. But we forbear further comment at present, and give the article as we find it in its rounds in the press:]

A very singular theory, advanced many years ago by Sir Henry Holland, has again been brought before the scientific world by Dr. Brown-Sequard. This theory is that we have two brains, each perfectly sufficient for the full performance of the mental functions. It was formerly thought that the left side of the brain controlled the movements and feelings of the right side of the body, and *vice versa*. In Dr. Brown-Sequard's theory we make use of only one in thought, while the other half remains perfectly useless as regards manifestations of intelligence. The bodily powers are duplex, and very few of the organs are single, though several which are really double appear to be single. We don't permit these pairs of members to remain idle. With the exception of the arms, both members perform their share of the work. What the doctor proposes is to try and bring both halves of the brain, or both brains into operation. By this the mental one-sidedness will disappear, and a higher standard of intelligence supervene. Many cases are quoted by different authorities in support of this theory. Dr. Wigin insists that among insane persons we often recognize two different minds—one sane, the other insane, or both insane, but in different degrees. One example, taken from the "Hoozier," is strikingly in point. The patient imagined himself General Jackson. He said his head had been shot off at "Bueny Visty," and that the new one which had "growed on weren't nigh so good as the old one." His head, according to him, was "tatur on one side, but all right on t'other." When he knew a thing on the left side of his head he knew it; and it was really the case that this crazy pauper gave clear and valuable testimony in a court of justice. An insane patient knows that he is insane. "The lunatic," says Brown-Sequard, "is at one and the same time perfectly rational and perfectly insane."

It has been shown that the faculty of speech depends either wholly or mainly on the left side of the brain. Out of more than one hundred cases of aphasia, or loss of power of speech, only one is known in which the right side of the brain was diseased, which goes to show that the two sides are distinct from one another. Dr. Brown-Sequard maintains that the left brain is used in speech as the right hand is used in writing, and that by training both brains should render this form of cerebral disease less likely to cause loss of speech. Sight affords evidence that the distinct action of the two sides of the brain is not incompatible with the completeness of the power possessed by either. Each side of the brain possesses apparently the potentiality of rendering sight perfect for both cases. The left side of the brain chiefly controls the gestures, and for the reason that it guides the movements of the right side of the body, and it is chiefly with the right arm that gestures are made. It is also known that the power of reasoning depends on the left side of the brain more than the right, and in cases of insanity the left side of the brain has most frequently been found diseased.

The right side of the brain in turn possesses its special functions. It serves chiefly to produce the emotional manifestations, including those called hysterical, and also to control the needs of the body as respects nutrition.

Every organ which is put in use for a certain function gets developed. So with the brain. The left side which receives more blood than the right, is greater than that side. That the head grows larger with years, is a fact known to hatters, and the growth of the head affords strong proof of the growth of the brain. The superior size of the left side of the brain is also shown by the right-handedness among all races of men. We exercise most the right side of the body, hence the left side of the brain becomes better developed. If we exercised equally both sides of the body, would not both sides of the brain become equally developed and both become capable of controlling the reasoning faculties? The hope of Dr. Brown-Sequard is that by teaching our children to use both sides of the body equally, two sides of the brain may be brought into more uniform action. If we were to train the left side of the body as carefully as we are in the habit of training the right, there is a chance that we should have two brains as respects mental functions, instead of one, as at present.

RECOLLECTIONS OF LIFE AND MEDICAL PRACTICE.

BY AN ORIGINAL PHYSICIAN—DR. JOSEPH GRAY.

No. 3.—Consumption.

MANY a time I took my life in my hand to save the life of my patient by a natural method, in opposition to allopathic practice. For instance, a woman was given up by her "regular physician" and I was sent for. Her husband met me at the door, saying, "I did not send for you expecting that you could do anything to help my wife, only to fulfill her dying request; she is in the last stages of consumption, and her doctor says she can not live a week." However I went in to speak with his wife, and found she had faith in my mode of practice and was willing to make an effort to live and abide strictly by my injunctions. Accordingly I gave her soothing (not stupefying) medicines, and slowly, imperceptibly changed, by small doses of ipecac and healing and restorative medicines, her condition, so when the week was up she was not only still alive but in a condition in which I ventured to give her, as *the only hope* of saving her life, a lobelia emetic. My patient fainted. Then her husband exclaimed:

"You have killed my wife!"

"A pretty story to tell," replied I, "when you told me she could not live a week when I first saw her. The week is up, and besides, she is not dead yet."

Making no more words with the unreasonable man, I returned to my patient and administered restoratives. She revived, and was as much better for the emetic as I expected she would be, and in a condition that gave hope of ultimate recovery, which pleasing result was at length accomplished, so that she moved west with her family and lived "many good days."

In connection with the above case, it may not be without use to remark that after my patient was so much recovered as to be about the house, a cough hung obstinately about her. Retiring to rest, my mind occupied with thoughts of her condition, I dreamed that I gave her a powder of equal portions of blood root (sanguinaria), ipecac, wild turnip or wake robin (arum triphyllum), mixed with West India molasses. Upon waking, I reflected that all the articles were good, and I had used them all in different combinations; accordingly I prepared it as above. It gave my patient a new start, removed her cough, and gave me a new remedy for obstinate consumptive cough, viz: equal parts arum, sanguinaria and ipecac, in West India molasses, a little taste, to be taken every time an inclination to cough arises, and slowly swallowed.

POISONS IN CONFECTIONERIES.

Line upon line, line upon line has been written warning the people against the use of colored confectioneries, such as candies, cakes, &c., so that there is scarcely a mother in the land who does not know that every time she gives her child a stick of colored candy she gives it a portion of some poison, it may be the poison of a Mexican bug called cochineal, extracted by sulphuric acid, or by muriatic acid, tincture of each of which is poison. Or it may be the color of the candy is produced by a solution of analine, which is also a poison, and yet mothers will still give their dear little children colored confectioneries, and then wonder why they are not healthy; and when death follows disease they mourn over the loss of their dear little ones, and wonder at what they call the "strange dispensation of Providence." And such is the stupidity and infatuation of the people that these practices are followed and the legitimate results are seen day after day and year after year, and still

"Rachel mourns for her children and will not be comforted, because they are not." But this time it was not a little child, but a young lady, as reported in an Indianapolis paper of last week, who was poisoned by colored candy. We doubt not but other young ladies will resort to the same means to beautify their complexions. C.

"A young lady living in the northwest part of the city, and whose name, at the urgent request of friends, we refrain from mentioning, has, through a little simple vanity, nearly if not quite destroyed her eyesight. About ten days ago she painted her cheeks with the red coloring matter of some cinnamon candy, and went to a party. During the evening her face became very much swollen, and the poison soon after communicated itself to her eyes. She is now quite blind, and though receiving the best medical attention the city can afford, there seems to be little hope that she will ever regain her eyesight."

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Physio-Medical Journal
AND
REFORM ADVOCATE.

VOL. I. *INDIANAPOLIS, AUGUST, 1875.* No. 8

PHYSIO-MEDICALISM.—ITS COLLEGES.

Concluded.

IN the June issue of this journal we spoke of the Physio-Medical College of Ohio, and its successful operation after its removal from Columbus to Cincinnati. This seemed to stimulate others to try the experiment of running a college. About the year 1841 the Southern Botanico Medical College was organized and faculty appointed, composed of Profs. Bankston, Quinn, Jornendon, Cox and others. In a year or two Profs. Bankston and Quinn resigned, and their places were filled by Thomson and Bryan. They secured a good building at Forsythe, Ga., and commenced operations under very favorable auspices, as the Physio-Medical system was very popular in the South, and the Physio-Medical College at Cincinnati was in many respects quite inaccessible; there being no railroads at that time west of the mountains, students had to depend wholly upon water and stage travel, which was very tedious and expensive, so much so that the traveling expenses were often much greater than college fees, which were ninety-five dollars. As Forsythe was quite centrally located in the South, it had the advantage of all other colleges in respect to location. But notwithstanding it had the advantage of location and commodious buildings, they never succeeded in obtaining very large classes, and after several years of unsuccessful effort they removed the college to Macon, where they received a considerable donation from the State and also from the city of Macon, with which they were enabled to secure ample buildings and apparatus for all college purposes. The building was destroyed by fire about the year 1853, and immediately rebuilt at a cost of about $30,000; besides this about $5,000 was spent for college apparatus.

About the year 1847 this college formed a co-operation with the New England Botanico-Medical College, which was to be a branch of this one, and two members of the faculty were appointed to fill chairs in the faculty of the branch, (N. E. Bot. Med. Col.) which was located at Worcester, Mass.

Notwithstanding this effort to extend its influence, this college failed to command the patronage it otherwise might have done, because of a want of harmony and agreement on questions of medical faith, and hence a large proportion of the students of the South attended the P. M. College at Cincinnati, until about 1858 or 60, when sectional prejudices became so strong as to prevent them from attending a Northern college of any kind. It is true there were a few honorable exceptions, but the mass of the Southern people withdrew their friendship and sympathy from all Northern colleges. Soon after the war commenced this college suspended for several years. Since the close of the war, however, it renewed its operations, made some changes in its faculty, retaining but two or three of the old members, who had entirely lost sight of the true doctrines of Physio-Medicalism, and adding some who were of the Eclectic faith. They also changed the name of the college from Southern Botanico-Medical College to the College of American Medicine and Surgery. So the old college may be considered dead, and the new one, the C. of A. M. and S., established on its ruins. We have been informed by members of its present faculty that the new college had a good class last session, and that prospects for the future look bright Eclectically. It is much better for Physio-Medicalism that the name of the college should change with the change of its teachings, than that the old college should sail under false colors, as it had done for many years.

We come now to speak of the Botanico-Medical College which was organized at Wetumpka, Alabama, in the year 1845, under the control of Profs. Hill, Shivers, Quinn, Hatchett and others, as its faculty. So far as we are informed, this college only continued in operation one or two years, when it was merged into the Botanico-Medical College of Tennessee, of which we shall speak more particularly hereafter. From what we have been able to learn the Wetumpka College was a failure, medically and financially considered.

We come now to speak of the New England Botanico-Medical College which, as has been already stated, was organized as a branch of the Southern Botanico-Medical College at Macon. This college went into operation in 1846, in the city of Worcester, Mass., without a charter, as the Legislature of Massachusetts refused to grant one. In the first announcement they started out with the declaration that "the fundamental peculiarities of the doctrines taught in this college, being that there is no necessity for employing poisons of any kind as medical agents, and that the object in exhibiting any remedy should be to sustain and not to depress the vital powers." An arrangement, of which we have spoken heretofore, was made with the Southern Botanico-Medical College to furnish students who were found qualified, in this college, with diplomas;

but a disagreement arose between the faculties of the two colleges, and an arrangement was then made with the Virginia Scientific and Eclectic Medical Institute to furnish diplomas.

About the third year after this college commenced operations, they petitioned largely, and obtained a charter from the Legislature, and secured the best college edifice in New England, and for a time seemed to prosper. They appointed Prof. A. Curtis to the Chair of Theory and Practice, but he declined, and they then selected Prof. Gabbert, who claimed to be a thorough convert from Allopathy "to an innocent and sanative medication, but not an advocate of that eternal chiming of *steam and lobelia, lobelia and steam,* which had been too long taught in the department of theory and practice in our colleges of the Physio-Medical faith."

Every true Physio-Medicalist can see in this language an expression of weakness which foreboded the ultimate end of Physio-Medicalism in the college, as was soon proven. The faculty soon lost sight of the polar star of medical reform, adopted the chemical theory of physiology, which necessarily led to the practice of using poisons. About this time Prof. C. Newton, who was the principal man in the faculty, died, and the college soon put on the Eclectic garb, and soon after was reported to be in a very sickly state, since which time we have heard nothing of it, from which we are led to conclude that it has gone the way of all apostates.

In 1846 the Legislature of Tennessee chartered the Botanico-Medical College at Memphis, and it was organized the same year. It started with very flattering prospects, having an attendance at its first session of ninety-three students, and a graduating class which numbered thirty. It was claimed by its friends that the college at Wetumka and the one at Forsythe, of which we have already spoken, were merged into this one. The college property, which was held by a joint stock company, amounted to $33,000, and consisted of everything in the way of buildings and apparatus which seemed necessary to ensure success, and yet the elements of destruction were soon found to exist in the institution, for though it took the name common at that day to all Thomsonian or Physio-Medical colleges, it had no fixed, first principles by which the faculty were governed and upon which they could agree in their teachings. One or two of their faculty were graduates of the Physio-Medical College at Cincinnati, but they soon apostatised from the true faith, and taught doctrines clearly at variance from those at first professed, which had the effect to beget a feeling of distrust and estrangement in the minds of all true Physio-Medicalists, and consequently the college, with its fine buildings and extensive apparatus, had to struggle desperately to maintain its existence, and finally had to suspend about or before the beginning of the late war, since which time we have heard nothing of it, and so we conclude it has "died to live no more."

The next and last college of those that were, to which we call attention, was organized in 1852 by electing a board of trustees, composed of twenty influential men, selected from the city and State of New York, New Jersey and Connecticut. This board secured spacious rooms and good apparatus on East Broadway street, in the city of New York, and they appointed a faculty of men of good reputation for ability and correct medical views, but it was soon discovered that but two or three of the faculty were of the true Physio-Medical faith, consequently the disagreement in the teachings of the faculty created dissatisfaction in the classes, and the true friends of Physio-Medicalism soon lost their interest in the success of the college, and hence the classes soon became so small as to be wholly insufficient to sustain the faculty, and so this college had also to suspend.

Here was one of the most remarkable failures of which we have any knowledge, for they had secured a college edifice, with pleasant and spacious rooms for all necessary purposes, in the largest city in the United States. Their students enjoyed "the same privileges of access to the hospitals as those of other colleges." That selfish intolerance which has characterized the faculties and students of some of the Western colleges was wholly unknown in the city of New York. The students had free access to two medical and surgical cliniques every week, and the surgical and lying-in wards of the Emigrants' Hospital every Saturday. They also had access to the largest museum of human and comparative anatomy in the United States, as well as free admission to the Astor Library, which contained the largest and best collection of medical literature on the globe. And yet with all these advantages the Metropolitan Medical College failed for the want of correct teaching and harmony in the faculty. In other words, it failed because the majority of the faculty apostatised from the true medical faith.

In conclusion, we would say that a brief review of the history of all the Physio-Medical Colleges which have failed, clearly proves that succcss does not lie in spacious halls, central locations nor splendid ability in the lecturers; but in adopting correct medical theories and adhering strictly to them, and harmony amongst the faculty—not turning to the right or left to suit popular whims; but "having charity for all and malice toward none," respecting and being respected by all honest, well-behaved people.

In addition to the two colleges already mentioned, we would name the Physio-Medical College of Indiana as the third of the only colleges in the United States in which Physio-Medical doctrines are taught. It has passed its second year with very fair prospects of success. The Board of Trustees have taken the necessary steps to have all the Chairs in the faculty filled with competent men who are true to correct medical principles, and everything possible is being done to make it a success. The friends have been liberal in the bestowment of material aid, by which a college may succeed, and without which it never can succeed. About $35,000 have already been donated, and other considerable sums have been partially promised, so that everything seems to bid fair for a bright future. C.

LEAD POISONING.

On the 6th of June last I was called to see Mr. J. and daughter. I found them suffering with extreme pains in the abdomen and back, the pains shooting up into the chest and arms and down into the pelvic viscera. The pains were characterized by exacerbations and remissions. During an exacerbation the pains were most excrutiating, causing the patient to assume a variety of unnatural positions, and to utter agonizing groans or cries. The pulse was abnormally slow, full and hard; axillary temperature 97°; mind anxious and depressed; considerable prostration of strength; a peculiar fetor of the breath, and a sweetish, styptic taste in the mouth; abdomen hard and retracted; pressure over the stomach and bowels well borne; a frequent desire to evacuate the bowels, with, when successful, watery dejections, containing small, hard lumps, or scybala; the urine scanty and micturition difficult; thirst slight and easily satisfied; tongue slightly furred, otherwise natural. He said he had not felt well during the morning (there being some gastric disturbance and cephalalgia), but thought nothing of it until about 11 A. M., at which time he had a hard chill, with an increase of the gastric, and head pains. The pain, however, soon extended to the abdomen and back, becoming the chief ailment.

The daughter was suffering with constant nausea, and at irregular intervals vomiting, the egesta of a bilious character, otherwise the symptoms were very much the same as in the case of her father. I pronounced the disease lead colic.

On returning home I was informed that my services were desired at Mr. R.'s, four of whose family were poisoned. By evening of the following day I had prescribed for twenty-four cases, all presenting the same general class of symptoms, but varying considerably in severity in different cases. The whole number of cases, as near as I can ascertain, was about sixty.

The allopathic jury failed to agree, some pronouncing the difficulty *arsenical poisoning*, others bilious colic, and others (so I am informed) cholera infantum. Dr. H—— a man of years of experience, said that the symptoms (in the case of his own person) were those due to lead.

"Arsenious acid, in an overdose, administered internally or applied externally, acts with very great energy, and *generally destroys life in a short time;* but, in some rare instances, no well-marked symptoms are developed until *eight or nine hours* after the injestion of the poison."—*U. S. D., twelfth edition, page 26.*

In no case was there any manifestation of poisoning until after the lapse of eighteen hours, and in the majority of cases there were no well-marked symptoms for from twenty-four to thirty-six hours after the injestion of the poison, and, *mirabile dictu!* there have no deaths occurred.

After careful investigation I have elicited facts sufficient to satisfy any reasonable mind that the poison was lead, and the source some ice-cream used on the occasion of a Granger dinner at Fairview, June 5th.

Treatment—Consisted of a weak infusion of composition and lobelia for the first few hours, and on the recurrence of an exacerbation; Oleum Ricini, or antibilious physic, assisted by injections to move the bowels. Advised th use of new milk, when not contra-indicated by acidity c the stomach; the abdomen and back to be bathed wit equal parts stimulating liniment and tr. lobelia; cloth wrung out of warm water to the abdomen, and a dail sponge bath; Geranin and Myricin āā *gr. ii* to *iv*, ever three hours during remissions, and through convalescence

Such is a general outline of the treatment adopted. Recovery progressed rapidly; visits discontinued at the en of the third day, and so far there has been but one relapse which, however, was mild in degree and lasted but for short period. "Regular" visits were, in some cases, *regularly* continued for ten or twelve days. J. R.

CIRCULATION AND THE NERVOUS SYSTEM.

BY W. L. BAKER.

ELECTRICITY.

"An invisible something that warms in the sun, refreshes in the breeze
Glows in the stars, and blossoms in the trees;
Lives through all life, extends through all extent;
Spreads undivided, operates unspent;
Breathes in our souls, informs our mortal part,
As full, as perfect, in a hair as a heart;
As full, as perfect, in vile man that mourns,
As the wrapt seraphim, that adores and burns;
It claims all high and low, all great and small;
It fills, it bounds, connects and equals all."

It is immaterial to what department of this globe an its surrounding elements we turn our attention, electricit is there. Wherever we witness convulsions in nature, th workings of this mighty unseen power are there. It write its path in lightnings on the sullen brow of the dark cloud and breathes out rolling thunder. Though cold and invisible in its slumbering state, yet it is the cause of light an heat, which it creates by the inconceivable rapidity of its motions and friction on other particles of matter. It is the cause of evaporations from basined oceans and silvery lakes—from majestic rivers and rolling streams, and from the common humidity of the earth. It forms aerial conductors in the heavens, through which this moisture in vapory oceans is borne to the highest portions of our globe, and stored up in magazines of rain and snow and hail! It is electricity that, by coldness, condenses the storm, and opens these varied magazines in mild beauty or awful terror on the world. It is electricity that, by the production of heat, rarefies the air, gives wings to the winds and directs their course. It is this unseen agent that causes the gentle zephyrs of heaven to fan the human brow with a touch of delight—that moves the stirring gale—that arms the sweeping hurricane with power—that gives the roaring tornado all its dreadful eloquence of vengeance and terror, and clothes the mid-day sun in brilliant light. It gives us the soft, pleasing touches of the evening twilight, and the crimson blushes of the rising morn. It is electricity that, by its effects of light and heat, produces the blossoms of spring, the fruits of summer, the laden bounties of autumn, and moves on the mass of vegetation in all the varieties and blended beauties of creation. It is electricity that, by its awful impressions, causes the earthquake to awake from its Tartarean den, to speak its rumbling thunder, convulse the globe, and mark out its path of ruin.

If we turn to man, and investigate the secret stirrings of his nature, we shall find that he is but an epitome of the universe. The chemical properties of all the various substances in existence, and in the most exact proportions, are congregated and concentrated in him, and form and constitute the very elements of his being. In the composition of his body are evolved all the mineral and vegetable substances of the globe, even from the grossest matter,

step by step, up to the most rarefied and fine. Anc
to finish this masterpiece of creation, the brain is ir
with a living spirit. This incomprehensible spirit,
enthroned deity, presides over, and governs throug
tricity, as its agent, all the voluntary motions of t
ganized, corporeal universe; while its living presen
its involuntary, self-moving powers cause all the ir
tary functions of life to proceed in their destined
Hence, human beings and all animated existences a
ject to the same grand electrical law that pervades t
verse, and moves all worlds under the superintend
the involuntary powers of the infinite Spirit.

On this principle it will be plainly perceived that
is subjected to the same common law that pervad
universe, *electricity* is the connecting-link betweer
and *matter*. As it is co-eternal with spirit or mind,
the only substance in being that mind can directly
or through which it can manifest its power. It is t
vant of the mind, to obey its will and execute it
mands. It is through electicity that the mind conv
various impressions and emotions to others, and tl
this same medium receives all its impressions from
ternal world. It is by electricity that the mind co
the muscles, raises the arm, and performs all the vol
motions of the body.

I will now proceed to prove that *electricity* is the
ing-link between *mind* and inert *matter*, and is the
that the mind employs to contract and relax the m
and to produce all the *voluntary* and *involuntary* mot
the body. First, the brain is the fountain of the n
system, from whence it sends out its millions of br
to every part of the body. Indeed, the brain is but
geries of nerves, and is the immediate residence of t
ing spirit. This spirit or mind is the cause of all m
whether that motion be *voluntary* or *involuntary*.

the arm to rise, and the arm obeys the mandate; while the *very presence* of this mind in the brain, even though wrapped in the insensibility of sleep, produces all the involuntary motions of the vitals, and executes the functions of life. Now my mind can not come in contact with dead matter. My mind can no more directly touch my hand than it can the mountain rock. My mind can not touch the bones of my arm, nor the sinews, the muscles, the blood-vessels, nor the blood that rolls in them. Paralysis presents conclusive proof of this, *a priori.*

Mind is the only substance in the universe that possesses inherent *motion* and living *power* as its two PRIMEVAL EFFICIENTS. These two seem to be inseparable, because there can be no manifestation of power except through motion. Hence, MIND is the first grand moving cause, the first link. The *mind* wills, the second link. The mind stirs the nervous force, the third link. The electricity causes the nerve to vibrate—this is the fourth link. The vibration contracts the fibre of the muscle—this is the fifth link. The contraction of the muscle raises the bone of the arm—this is the sixth link; and the arm raises dead matter—that is the seventh link. To be plain, it is mind that touches electricity—electricity touches nerve—nerve touches muscle—muscle touches bone—and bone raises dead matter.

Having shown that all motion and power originate in mind, and found the connecting-link between mind and matter, we will pass to the circulation of the blood, which is one of the grandest themes presented for human contemplation. Now we will first see how electricity is gathered from the surrounding elements, carried into the system, and stored up in the brain to feed the mind with impressions. I want it distinctly understood that when I speak of electricity, nervous or nervo-vital fluid, I mean one and the same thing; but let us look at the nerves a moment. I have already stated that the brain is the fountain of the nervous system, and that both its hemispheres are made up of a congeries of nerves. They both pass to the cerebellum, and the spinal marrow, continued to the bottom of the trunk, is but a continuation of the brain.

In the spinal marrow, which is the grand conductor from the brain, is lodged the whole strength of the system. From this spinal marrow branch out thirty-two pairs of nerves, embracing the nerves of motion and those of sensation. From these branch out others, and others again from these; and so on till they are spread out over the human system in net-work so infinitely fine that we can not put down a needle without feeling it—and we can not feel unless we touch a nerve. We see, therefore, how inconceivably fine the nervous system is. In all these millions of nerves there is no blood; they contain the electric fluid only, while the blood is confined to the veins and arteries.

Passing now to circulation, I would, in the first instance, remark that the air we breathe, as to its component parts, is computed to consist of twenty-one parts *Oxygen* and seventy-nine parts *Nitrogen.* Electricity, as a universal agent, pervades the entire atmosphere. We can not turn the electric machine in any dry spot on earth without collecting it. Oxygen is that element which sustains flame and animal life. Neither can exist a moment without it, while nitrogen, on the contrary, just as suddenly extinguishes both. The atmosphere, in this compound state, is taken into the lungs. The oxygen and electricity having a strong affinity for moisture, instantly rush to the blood, while the nitrogen is disengaged and expired. The blood, being oxygenized and electrified, instantly assumes a bright cherry-red appearance, and by this energizing process has become purified and prepared for circulation. The lungs, and the blood they contain, are both rendered electrically *positive*, and we know that in electrical science two positives resist each other and fly apart. Hence the lungs resist the blood and force it into the left ventricle of the heart. The valve closes and the blood passes into the arteries; hence, arterial blood is of a bright cherry-red hue. It is, by the positive force of electric action, propelled through every possible ramification of the arterial system, till all its thousands of minute capillary vessels are charged. Along these arteries and their branches are laid nerves of involuntary motion, but no nerves whatever attend the veins. Why is this so? Why is it that nerves, like so many telegraphic wires, are laid along the whole arterial system in all its minute ramifications, but that none are laid along the nervous system? I press the question, and answer, that nerves are laid along the arteries to receive the electric charge from the *positive* blood that rolls in them, which charge the blood received from the air inspired by the lungs. But as the venous blood is *negative*, it has no electricity to throw off, and hence needs no attendant nerves to receive a charge; because that very electric charge which the blood receives from each inspiration at the lungs, is thrown off into the nerves by friction, as it rolls through its destined channels in crimson streams. At the extremities of the arterial system—at the terminus ot its thousand of capillaries—the last item of the electric charge takes its departure from the positive blood, escapes into the attendant nerves, through them is instantly conducted to the brain, and is there basined up for the use of the mind. The arterial blood, having thrown off its electricity as above described, assumes a dark, a purplish hue. It enters the capillaries of the veins, which are as numerous as those of the arteries. The blood is now *negative*, and as the lungs by new inspirations are kept in a *positive state*, so the venous blood returns through the right ventricle of the heart to the lungs, on the same principle that causes the *negative* and *positive* forces to rush together.

There it is again electrified and oxygenized, changed to a cherry red, is again rendered *positive*, and is thus purified and prepared once more for arterial circulation.

You will readily perceive that the circulating system is in reality *two* distinct systems. The first is the arterial system, with its *positive* blood; the second the venous system, with its *negative* blood. To these two circulating systems, the heart, with its two auricles, two ventricles, and valves, is exactly adapted, so as to keep the *positive* and negative blood apart, and to regulate the motions of both. And we see that the nervous system most perfectly corresponds with what I have said of the circulating system.

These views of the circulation of the blood are strengthened by the fact that the blood contains a certain portion of iron; and we well know that iron becomes a magnet only by induction, and loses its magnetic power the moment the electric current passes from it. Hence the blood, through the agency of the iron it contains, can easily assume a *positive state* at the instant it receives the electric charge from the air at the lungs. It can then pass into the arteries, and by friction throw off its electricity into the nerves, and again assume a *negative state* as it enters the veins.

The heart does not circulate the blood, nor does the blood cause the heart to throb. The heart and lungs both receive their motions from the cerebellum, which is the fountain and origin of organic life and involuntary motion. Hence the involuntary nerves from the cerebellum throb the heart and heave the lungs, and the electricity contained in the inspired air circulates the blood and supplies the brain with nervo-vital fluid, which can be explained by a surgical operation on the spinal marrow.

Again: It is evident that the same secret and invisible connection exists between the voluntary and involuntary nerves of the two brains that exists between the arteries and the veins of the two circulating systems. If this connection did not exist, then the *voluntary* powers could not, by their wakefulness, produce the least possible effect upon the involuntary powers, so as to tire them out and produce death, nor could they ever cause the least disease. And on the other hand, the involuntary could not produce the least possible effect upon the voluntary powers.

The mind, as a supreme ruler and engineer of this intricate automaton, is certainly not diffused throughout both brains, because a part of the brain may be destroyed, and the mind still retain all its powers and faculties. If it were thus diffused, being an active principle, it would keep every organ of the brain uniformly excited, which it does not. Hence it appears reasonable that the mind holds its throne between the TERMINATION of the involuntary nerves of the cerebellum and the COMMENCEMENT of the voluntary nerves of the cerebrum. This, though difficult to determine, seems to be the MEDULLA OBLONGATA. There the royal monarch sits enthroned. From the external world, through one common nerve, he receives all his impressions, and from thence he transmits them by electric telegraph to the various departments of his palace—or, to speak more phrenologically, to the different organs of the brain.

To sum up: We have electricity, the all-pervading power of the universe; mind, upon which it acts; nerves, upon which mind acts; muscles, on which nerves act; bone, on which muscles act; and lastly, the intricate effects produced by the combination. By it we can explain the philosophy of disease, and the *rationale* of its cure. By it we can explain that all powers are unseen substances; that spirit is material, and that our Creator has a voluntary power which creates, and an involuntary power which governs through established laws.

Lebanon, Ohio.

SCIENTIFIC CONTRADICTIONS.

"The medical practice of the present day, in many respects, is in striking contrast to that current a half century ago; and it is by no means improbable that a comparison with the present day at the end of the next half century, will reveal points of contrast not less striking."—*Flint's Practice, 4th ed., p. 131.*

The allopathic literature of the present day furnishes points of contrast sufficiently "striking" (without the necessity of appealing to the past or future), to forever condemn them in the eyes of an enlightened public. *Vide et crede:* "Local blood-letting may be admitted, in almost every case, to have all the advantages which can be claimed for venesection, except convenience. This admission may be made without surrendering, in the least degree, the principle of therapeutics upon which blood-letting is scientifically justified, and according to which, if we are to interfere at all with disease, it is often one of the *mildest, most beneficent* and *least hazardous* of remedies."—*Hartshorne's Essential, 3d ed., p. 100.*

"The evils of blood-letting arise from its spoliative effect upon the blood. It diminishes the red globules, and these, during the progress of an acute disease, are not readily reproduced. In induces, thus, the *anæmic condition,* and in this way *impairs the vital powers.* It will be likely to do harm, therefore, whenever it is important to economize the powers of life, and it may contribute to a fatal result in diseases, or causes of disease, which involve danger of death by asthenia."—*Flint, 4th ed., p. 149.*

"I do not know of a single case of any kind of disease in which the indication or object of medical treatment is to reduce the strength, or lower the vital power of the patient's system. (Better reform them.) It is a mere imagination that abstraction of a small quantity of blood must always lower the patient's strength. Under some circumstances it actually increases it."—*Hartshorne's, p. 100. Vide ut supra.*

"The red globules appear to sustain a certain relation to vigor, strength and activity; that is, they are abundant in races, breeds, and individuals, in proportion as the general attributes of the body just named are marked. [58.] To have one's blood is to take life."—*Flint, p. 56.*

"How, then, it is proper to ask, do we define or classify the remedial action of blood-letting? It is *balancive.* These (measures) constitute a very large part of therapeutics; one of the most constant elements of disease, and of diseases, being a *disturbance of the proportion* of circulation, nutrition, innervation and action in different parts."—*Hartshorn, p. 96.*

"Anæmic patients have coolness of the surface, and *especially* cold extremities. The action of the heart is feeble, easily *disturbed,* and frequently irregular. The mental energy is diminished. The vital functions are languidly performed. The muscular strength is diminished. It induces a multiplicity of morbid phenomena, arising from disordered action of the nervous system."—*Flint, p. 60.*

After admitting that "blood-letting has more opponents and fewer defenders than at any previous period in medical history," he (Hartshorne) assigns as one reason, "*a change in the average human constitution,* occurring under the artificial habits of civilized life."—*Hartshorne, p. 98.*

If such a change has taken place, it is due, not to "artificial habits of civilized life," but to allopathic poisons.

"Admitting to the fullest extent diversities attributable to race, climate, occupation, hereditary influences, etc., these do not invalidate the statement *the human constitution remains essentially unchanged,* as regards the application of established therapeutical principles. Were the truth otherwise, it would strike at the root of medical experience."—*Flint, p. 132.*

"Mercury is a general stimulant to all those functions of organic life which are performed under innervation from the ganglia of the (so-called) sympathetic system."—104.

"Mercurialization quickly reduces the quantity of red globules in a marked degree [i. e., induces anæmia, which see]."—*Flint, p. 63.*

"Opium is an arterial stimulant, and is, therefore (as a general rule), inappropriate in the early stage of an active sthenic phlegmasia. Opium first excites and then *oppresses* the brain; in a word, *promotes determination of blood to the head,* and is, therefore, contraindicated by an already existing tendency to cerebral congestion."—*Hartshorne, p. 105.*

"Clinical experience and sounder pathological views, however, have led to the knowledge of its [opium] great value in the treatment of inflammatory affections *wherever situated.* By relieving pain, it *diminishes the determination of blood to the inflamed part.*"—*Flint, 151.*

"*The treatment of disease is the great end of all our studies relating to pathology, general and special.*"—*Flint, p. 125.*

"After all, however, so incomplete is any curative plan as yet devised, that a large margin is left for patience and opium."—*Hartshorne, p. 117.*

Agreement—"These views are the more to be impressed because it is undoubtedly true that, until lately, the minds of medical men have been so much occupied with the means of subduing inflammation as to overlook the fact that means employed for this end, not only often conflict with those which are more important for recovery, but may be positively injurious, if not, indeed, destructive to life. The attention has been directed too much to the disease and too little to the patient."—*Flint, p. 191.*

PROCEEDINGS OF THE

PHYSIO-MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

OF INDIANA.

Thirteenth Annual Session, June 8th, 9th and 10th, 1875.

SECOND DAY.

MORNING SESSION.

SENATE CHAMBER, INDIANAPOLIS, IND., June 9, 1875.

Dr. Coffin, in the Chair, called the convention to order at eight o'clock.

The President remarked that he desired the business of the convention to be carried on with energy and promptness, and hoped that each member would speak without urging.

A Business Committee, consisting of Drs. S. M. White, George Hasty and N. Newby, was appointed by the President, who offered a suggestion that "Experience in the use of remedies should constitute an item in their report; and that it be continued permanently, as it was an item of universal interest to the convention, and always elicited valuable information.

REGULAR BUSINESS.

Dr. Newby said he would like to have the discussion on the subject of poisons continued. Our philosophy in reference to poisons constituted a distinguishing feature in Physio-Medicalism, and its elucidation was a matter of importance to us. Also the discussion as it stood did not place the subject in a very clear light.

Dr. S. E. Carey—Medical authors have differed in reference to the nature of poisons, and consequently they disagree in the construction of their definitions. One which might be termed a legal definition, was as follows: "Poisons are those substances which, when taken internally or applied to the surface, will destroy life without acting in a purely mechanical manner." Another definition, of nearly similar import, leaves out the external application. This is an important matter; one that should never be overlooked. Eclectics, who in former times have discarded the internal use of mercury, have nevertheless applied mercurial ointment to the surface and salivated their patients. Also, some Physio Medicalists have used citron ointment, overlooking the important fact that poisons, when applied to the surface, will very frequently be absorbed, and produce their characteristic effects on the system.

A medical definition of poisons had been furnished by Dr. Curtis, which was very good. He would repeat it: "Poisons are substances which, in any and every quantity, possess a tendency to destroy the vital action* of the organs with which they come in contact, and do actually effect that destruction in all cases in which their influence is not overpowered by the vital force."

Poisons do not necessarily destroy life every time they are taken. It is well known that opium will destroy life with great certainty if taken in sufficient quantity; but small doses may be taken frequently without immediate danger to life; yet the small dose is as clearly poisonous as the larger one, because it possesses the same qualities precisely, and its tendency is in the same direction, but the quantity is so small that it is not sufficient to destroy the vital action and the patient survives. It is the tendency, then, that decides the character of an agent. If the tendency is to destroy vital action, the agent is poisonous, whether the destruction be complete or only partial.

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*By reference to Curtis' Theory and Practice, page 98, I find that instead of "vital action of the organs," he says "vitality of the organs."—SEC.

Some one has given this definition: "An agent which, when taken into the system, will uniformly produce disease, is a poison." This definition is defective. The defensive power of the system is such that poisons are frequently rejected and cast out of the body so rapidly and thoroughly that no disease is produced. So that whilst poisons have a universal tendency to produce disease and death, they sometimes fail because of the strong resistance with which they are met by the active powers of the system. Some agents have tendencies not clearly defined, and we are sometimes in doubt as to their real character. These it is necessary to investigate closely and compare notes with care in order to determine to which class they belong; but such agents as mercury, strychnine, opium, etc., are positive in character, and all may know they are destructive poisons, although large doses of some of them have been given in a few cases without producing fatal results. These cases are exceptions; but we must be guided by the general rule. We ought always to be careful and thorough in our investigations, because hasty conclusions are apt to be erroneous. I remember when gelseminum was undergoing investigation several years ago, a Professor of the Physio-Medical College of Ohio gave that agent a glowing character. It was a great relaxant, not so bad to take as lobelia, and more permanent in character, and he so taught the class; but when he came back to the next session his opinion of gelseminum had undergone a radical change. He had caused the death of one of his own children with it, and was satisfied as to its real character.

Dr. J. E. Canaday—In reference to the so-called *natural tendency* of agents to produce specific results, we certainly must admit that capsicum has a natural tendency to stimulate, and lobelia to relax; but then in conditions where stimulation or relaxation are not needed, not indicated, would not the administration of those agents do mischief—produce a pathological condition? And should they, or not, be classed as poisons? Again, he had seen cases in which large doses of *iodide potassium* had been used in certain conditions, and the patients came up under its influence. Does the administration of the agent in these conditions make of it a sanative agent, change its poisonous properties?

Dr. S. E. Carey—Dr. Canaday does not keep the distinction between poisons and medicines clearly before him. When a man is in health capsicum may become a source of offense to the system. It is not a medicine to him then. He speaks of poisons bringing the patient *up;* but it is the tendency of poisons to bring the patient *down;* and if a patient should come up on the use of poisons, his recovery would occur in spite of their direct action.

If a man was very cold—about to freeze—a good flagellation would wake him up and warm him, and thus be the means of saving his life; yet who will agree that this would be a proper means to employ in all cases where it is necessary to raise the temperature of the patient?

Also poisons may sometimes excite the system to such a degree that it will throw off both the poisons and the disease; but this is not a good argument in favor of their general use, because they always do more or less harm to the patient, and very frequently produce greater evils than those which they are designed to remedy.

Calomel is given to arouse the liver to action, and it is said that it will quite uniformly do so, though I have not given a grain of it, and can not speak from experience. It is also well known that calomel will produce very extensive mischief to the system, frequently destroying life. We therefore discard it in toto from the materia medica.

By reason of idiosyncrasy it sometimes happens that agents fail to produce the results which we desire, but act in an opposite manner from that which is indicated by their established character. But, I repeat, we must exclude the consideration of these exceptions, and make up our conclusions from the general rules. Otherwise we will get into difficulty.

Dr. Newby—The definition of Dr. Carey, to my mind, needs to be defined. The term "*vital action*" therein certainly is lame; for in the administration of agents *conditions* must be taken into consideration. We find a condition in which a relaxant is demanded. Gelseminum is administered till the required relaxation is secured. In nine out of every ten cases the patients will recover. No harm is done. The "vital *actions*" are not impaired. Therefore is it a poison or not?

Then, again, in testing agents in a healthy condition, do we not produce a pathological condition? No medicinal substance is indicated, and if not indicated certainly the "vital actions" are changed from a healthy standard. Capsicum in a state of health certainly "*tends*" to impair "vital action," and properly may be called a poison within the bounds of the definition.

Let us, therefore, lay aside old notions, and arrive at a logical conclusion in this matter, as we have to meet the people upon this subject.

Dr. S. M. White suggested that the word "mechanical" be placed in our definition of poisons. Then, he thought, we could get around the difficulty of undigested or fermented food. When too much food is taken a chemical laboratory is set up in the stomach, and poisons are generated which are obnoxious to the system. Or it may be that the food is neither digested nor fermented, but acts as a foreign substance, an obstruction to vital action and the nourishment of the system; and he thought we might make this matter clear by introducing the word "mechanical" in such a manner as to show that substances which injure the system in a mechanical manner should not be considered poisons.

Dr. S. E. Carey—With respect to the objections urged by Dr. Newby, he would remark that one of the characteristics of poisons was the lack of uniformity in their action. Results are seemingly now good, and then bad. From the testimony of those who have used gelseminum, we find that it is not uniform in its action. Large amounts may be given with seeming good results; again *small* portions have produced death. The tendency and liability to do mischief is always present, however. And the fact that it had *killed* was enough to satisfy him. Mercurials are similar in their uncertainties. Large doses sometimes do not kill, and small ones do. This lack of uniformity is characteristic of poisons, much more so than of sanative agents.

Agents should be tested in a healthy condition, from the fact that by so doing we get rid of the modifying influences of the pathological condition, and see distinctly what results are produced by the agent. Then a more rational application of the same may be made for the relief of the diseased condition.

When we use capsicum in a healthy condition, or upon a *well* man, we do not expect to make him *well*, but we do it with the idea of ascertaining what effect it will produce upon the structures, so that we may know in what condition of disease it is indicated. Of course capsicum is not indicated in health, nor is food indicated where there is no hunger. You can not appease hunger when it does not exist, by the administration of food.

Dr. Bufkin—I infer from the remarks of Prof. Carey that we do not get uniform action from poisons. I have been of opinion that all agents, whether poisonous or sanative in character, were possessed of fixed properties which secured a uniformity in the quality of their action. Gelseminum is said to be very irregular and uncertain in its action, and on this account is decided to be a poison.

Dr. Carey answered: Not this alone, but other testimony showing that gelseminum causes death, has aided in fixing its character.

Dr. Bufkin—When capsicum is not indicated it will injure the system. Is this a natural tendency of capsicum? If so, is it not a poison, according to the definition adopted by Prof. Carey. It is admitted that uniform results do not always follow the action of lobelia, and that it may injure the patient if improperly administered. The same is said of gelseminum. Now, if one is a poison why not the other, according to your definition? This point is not quite clear to my mind. Perhaps Prof. Carey can explain it. If he can I would like for him to do so.

Dr. Carey—Omit the *exception* and take the *rule*. Non-uniformity of action of gelseminum aroused the suspicion of its poisonous character; but that is not the rule with all agents. Lobelia, as a rule, relaxes; but occasionally we meet with cases in which a cramping seems to be produced. But the latter is the exception, and should not be adopted as the results of administration of the agent as a rule. Nor is there any well attested cases of its having produced death. Gelseminum is not reliable, not uniform in its action, and produces death, as has been well attested; therefore the conclusion is rational that there must be a difference in the action of the two agents. I am perfectly willing to admit that good medicines, when used in cases where their action is not indicated, may produce evil results. Men can not use agents indiscriminately, regardless of pathological conditions. Sometimes a sound whipping, under certain conditions, may save a man's life; but that does not argue that a whipping is always necessary, nor that it is the most rational or philosophical method of doing the work. Poisons may sometimes do good in a similar manner; but when there is a much better and safer way of doing the work, prudence would dictate the acceptance thereof.

Dr. D. H. Stafford—There is a misunderstanding in the minds of some in reference to the properties of our innocent agents. They can not be changed to poisons by any kind of misapplication or abuse. They may be given in cases where they are not indicated, and though the patient may not be benefited, yet no mischief will be done by their direct influence. If you give alcohol to a man in health the nerves and vascular system will be excited to increased action for a short time; but watch the case attentively and you will discover that this apparent stimulation will be superceded by a narcotism which soon prostrates the patient to utter helplessness. After this passes off the patient is found to be more or less permanently injured. The energy and vital power of his system is reduced so that months and frequently years are required to effect a permanent cure. If we watch the effects of poisons till their ultimate results are produced we will find that in every case the vital power of the system is reduced and health impaired by their action. Not so with our innocent remedies. If I take capsicum when in health my nerves and vascular system will be excited, both frequency and volume of the pulse will be increased, respiration will be more rapid, the temperature of the body raised, and perspiration increased. If I abstain from the capsicum and run a foot race instead, the same conditions will occur. Now, wait for the after results. In either case I will come out "all right" the next day, rather invigorated than prostrated by the exercise. Now, if the excitement produced by the capsicum is disease, is not the excitement generated in the foot race also disease? And if they are both disease, is not a foot race a dangerous poison?

I am willing to take lobelia while any man takes gelseminum, to test the comparative properties of these agents.

Dr. S. M. White—In the administration of alcohol and narcotics the impressions are of such a character as to seemingly or actually elevate the powers of the system *above* the healthy plane, and as you continue to administer, in order to keep up the elevation, you will have to increase the portions given; but you *always* have a *counter depression*—a falling *below* the healthy plane. Does this condition of things come about when you use capsicum or the harmless stimulants? A temporary elevation above the healthy plane is not necessarily disease-producing, unless it be kept up until the structures are over-worked, worn out, and a diseased condition comes about from over-wear.

Dr. Morehouse—Is health a certain condition that admits of no variations? According to his observations capsicum did not increase the *frequency* of the pulse when given in health; only a greater fullness and firmness were perceptible. Neither did the pulse decrease in frequency after its use. If this was disease he should like to know what health was.

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NATURE VERSUS DRUGS.—In the American Journal of Medical Sciences for July, we find "*A Contribution toward the Natural History of Acute Dysentery,*" from the very able pen of AUSTIN FLINT, M. D., of *Bellevue Hospital Medical College,* in which ten cases of the difficulty have been observed where no medical treatment was applied. The conclusions drawn from the study of these cases were as follows:

1st. The disease in a temperate latitude tends, without treatment, to recovery.

2d. It is a self-limited disease, and its duration is but little, if at all, abridged by methods of treatment now and heretofore in vogue.

3d. Convalescence is as rapid when active measures of treatment have not been employed as in cases actively treated.

4th. Relapses do not occur in the cases in which the disease has been allowed to pursue its own course without active treatment.

5th. Sporadic dysentery, in a temperate climate, does not eventuate in a chronic form of the disease; in other words, it does not lead to ulceration or other lesions of the mucous membrane of the large intestine, and it does not involve any tendency to complications or secondary affections.

In the same journal we find that Dr. Galentine, of Cleveland, Ohio, recommends the elevation of the hips to an angle of thirty or forty degrees above the trunk as a very efficient means of relief; this *postural* treatment effectually relieving the lower bowel of the pressure produced thereon by the other abdominal viscera, and at once relieved the *tormenting tenesmus.* Dr. G. says that if he were limited to *one* remedy in dysentery that remedy would be position.

DRUGS VERSUS NATURE.—At the St. Louis Insane Asylum a "sedative mixture," containing poison hemlock, was administered to some of the inmates, from the effects of which some four of them died. The coroner's jury, in their verdict, stated that "the sedative mixture used was prepared *according to the prescription of Dr. Howard, the resident physician, and that the blame, if any, in the matter, attaches to the nurses, who administered overdoses of the medicine.*"

The laws of nature are fixed, and *poison* kills.

BOOK NOTICES.

PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE OF SURGERY. By James Syme, F. R. S. E., &c. With Notes and Illustrations by R. S. Newton, M. D. 900 pp. New York: Jno. F. Trow & Son.

This is an Allopathic work by that very able and logical writer, Prof. Syme, of Edinburgh, the American editor being the well-known R. S. Newton, M. D., of New York, an Eclectic; so that we have in the work Allopathy with Eclectic amendments, and by the way, a work with many good points, the perusal of which will be beneficial to any Physio-Medicalist.

THE ECLECTIC PRACTICE OF MEDICINE, by Prof. R. S. Newton, M. D., by the same publishers as the above, is a work of nearly 600 pages, neatly gotten up, and containing many good practical thoughts. It is a standard work amongst our Eclectic brethren. It claims the latest improvements in medicine, and introduces the Standard New Remedies in the treatment of disease.

ECLECTIC TREATISE ON DISEASES OF CHILDREN, is from the same publishers as the foregoing, and has for its authors R. S. Newton, M. D., and the late W. Byrd Powell, M. D. 610 pages. Besides the treatise upon Diseases of Children proper, this work contains the Temperamental Theories as advanced and advocated by Prof. Powell, and should be carefully studied by every student of medicine. The work should have a place in every medical library.

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COLLEGE FACULTY.—By reference to last page of cover it will be seen that the Faculty of the Physio-Medical College of Indiana has been reorganized to some extent, and the chairs filled up with reliable and competent men. Students need have no fear as to the character of instruction that will be given by such a faculty. The course will be complete, thorough, comprehensive. Prof. McCarthy is an able and experienced teacher, and brings with him quite an influence for the college. And we would say to the profession that he purposes opening an office in this city for the treatment of such diseases as may be appropriately treated by electricity and galvanism. Profs. Thurston and Bedford are new men, but are both competent and energetic, and will *move* things. Prof. Young has been transferred to Medical Jurisprudence, which is directly in his line of business, he being an able lawyer of this city. The other members are all workers, and will keep their departments up. Upon the whole we think the college has an able faculty—one that insures success.

DEATH FROM HYPODERMIC INJECTION OF CHLORAL.

THE *Medical Times* reports another victim of the *fashion* of using hypodermic injections, which is at this time "all the go" with many physicians who claim to be scientific. Almost every week furnishes the history of a new case of death from the practice, and yet because it is the *style*, the doctors practice it and the people let them. But it may be asked what are hypodermic injections? It is an injection administered under the skin—usually the skin of a limb—by a very small, sharp pointed syringe, by which the medicine used is carried directly into the general circulation, and by which the effect of the medicine used becomes almost instantaneous. As it is a fact well known by all physiologists that the most innocent agents as water, sweet milk, &c., when introduced directly into the circulation will often produce serious results, we can not wonder that death often takes place when such poisons as chloral, veratrum and the various preparations of opium are used. And yet because this is or has been the *style*, many of the doctors and people still follow it, and when death takes place, they seem to console themselves with the fact that the treatment was scientific, and that the death was caused by one of the means which Providence uses in the dispensation of his power and goodness to his people! How long, O how long will the people keep the eyes of their mental vision closed? C.

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Physio-Medical Journal

AND

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WHAT HAS PHYSIO-MEDICALISM DONE FOR THE PEOPLE?

WE answer much, very much, for which it has not generally received any credit; not that the people are not generally willing to do justice, but because the people overlook the good results which have followed its introduction. To fully comprehend what Physio-Medicalism has accomplished, we must take a retrospective view of the condition of things medically, before the introduction of Physio-Medicalism. At the time of its introduction the medical battles of the past ages had been fought and Allopathy had the field. It was glory enough to be called an Allopathist, and no one cared to dodge behind any other name. However, contrary to common sense and the facts of common observation, *contraria contrarias curanter*, seemed to be, it was acknowledged and held as the grand central idea around which all the doctrines and practices of Allopathy centred. Here arose from this doctrine of making one disease to cure another, the practice of giving poisons to cure disease; and in order to satisfy the public mind on this point it was said that everything was poison, and that the strongest poisons were the best remedies; that the food we ate, the water we drank, and the air we breathed were all poison; and, however contrary to common sense these declarations were, the people accepted them as true, because the doctors said they were true, and the people took poisons for medicine, and were bled, and starved, and blistered to cure them of disease. In proof of this, hear what the most distinguished men of the Allopathic school said on this point. Prof. Armstrong said, "Bleeding is the right arm and mercury the left arm of medicine." Prof. Hooper, in his Medical Dictionary, said: "There is scarcely a disease in which mercury in some of its preparations is not exhibited." It was no uncommon thing for persons to take calomel, or mercury in some other form, for almost every form of disease, and to suffer salivation, and if they recovered they often had mercurial sore mouth following every exposure to damp weather, and then had mercurial ulcers on their limbs or bodies, which the doctors called fever sores, and when this salivation produced the loss of the teeth, or the soft parts, as well as the bones of the mouth; or when these mercurial ulcers caused entire loss of limb, and often destruction of life, these things were looked upon as a matter of course—unavoidable because the doctor said so; and so matters were going from bad to worse until our nation was rapidly becoming a nation of invallids, when Thomson and his followers warned the people of their danger, and pointed out a better way. "Hold there," says my Allopathic friend; "you are overdrawing that picture and coloring it too highly." Well, let us look at the history given by the most reliable Allopathic authorities. We will turn to Prof. John Eberle's Practice, which was a standard Allopathic authority, for Prof. E. had filled a chair in the highest Allopathic colleges of Philadelphia, New York, Cincinnati and Lexington. In his practice, which was standard authority for many years in all American colleges, we find that he recommends mercury in 102 of the 134 forms of disease described in his book. In 87 of these forms of disease he directs bleeding. Again, let us hear the father of American medicine (Prof. Rush), who died soon after the introduction of Physio-Medicalism. He says: "Our want of success is owing to two causes: 1st. Our ignorance of disease; 2d. Our ignorance of a suitable remedy." And again: "The heroic medicines, as they are called [mercury, opium and the lancet], deserve, indeed, a considerable share of the praise of the Cæsars and Alexanders of the world; powerful to destroy; heroic in blood and havoc and desolation." But let us see what other distinguished Allopathic professors say on that point. Prof. N. Chapman, of the Pennsylvania University, said: "If you could see what I almost daily see in my private practice, persons from the South in the very last stage of miserable existence, emaciated to a skeleton, with both plates of the skull almost completely perforated in many places, the nose half gone, with rotten jaws and ulcerated throats, with breaths more pestiferous than the poisonous Bohon Upas, with limbs racked with pains of the inquisition, minds as imbecile as the puling babe, a grievous burden to themselves and a disgusting spectacle to the world—you would exclaim, as I have often done, 'O, the lamentable ignorance which dictates the use (as medicine) of that noxious drug, calomel.' It is a disgraceful reproach to the profession of medicine—it is quackery—horrid, unwarrantable, murderous quackery. What merit do physicians flatter themselves they possess by being able to salivate a patient? Can not the veriest fool in Christendom give calomel and salivate? But I will ask another question: Who is there that can stop the career of calomel when once it has taken the reins into its own possession? He who resigns the fate of his patient to calomel is a vile enemy to the sick, and if he has a tolerable practice, will, in a single season, lay the foundation of a good business for life; for he will ever afterward have enough to do to stop the mercurial breaches in the constitution of his dilapidated patients. He has thrown himself in close contact with Death, and will have to fight him at arms' length so long as one of his patients maintains a miserable existence."

A score of other Allopathic authors could be quoted to the same effect; but let us hear another distinguished Professor, John Morehead, of the Ohio Medical College in 1837, who said: "My intercourse with medical students and with the younger members of our profession, has had the effect of impressing strongly upon my mind the belief that a propensity to *employ copious venesection* in cases wherein more experienced practitioners would either wholly omit, or, at most, but sparingly use it, may be considered as the prevailing error of their views and of their practice. Actuated by such a belief, I have been led to think that an essay intended to solicit earnestly their attention to the necessity of considering carefully all the features and particulars of a case before proceeding to employ the lancet, might not be useless. * * It is especially for the use of my younger brethren that this essay is intended. If it shall have the effect of awakening in them a deep and permanent and cautious sense of the vast importance of not resorting to the employment of the lancet, without having previously examined thoroughly and questioned anxiously the propriety of it, my aim will be accomplished—my wishes will be satisfied. It is my sole object to warn them of rocks and quicksands, on which I fear too many have made miserable shipwreck of lives committed to their charge. Everybody has heard of practitioners with whom, in every case for which they did not know exactly what ought to be done, it was a settled rule of practice to make trial of the lancet. So often, likewise, have I heard it said, even of physicians accorded eminent in their profession, that 'to prevent their patients from dying, they bled them to death.' If such charges have any foundation in truth (and I fear they have), it can not be altogether superfluous to present some arguments in favor of a more discriminative system of blood-letting."

Within ten years from the time that Prof. Morehead gave the above words of warning to his young brethren of the profession, a distinguished professor in one of the Eastern colleges published to the world that he had "sheathed his lancet forever."

Now, let us hear from another distinguished professor, who wrote a few years after Physio-Medicalism had shed its light upon the world. Prof. Gallup, in his Inst. Med., vol. 1, page 187, says: "The practice of using opiates as anodynes to mitigate pain in any form of fever and local inflammation is greatly to be deprecated; it is not only unjustifiable, but should be esteemed unpardonable. It is probable that for forty years past opium and its preparations have done *seven times the injury* that they have rendered benefit on the great scale of the civilized world." On page 298 he calls opium "the most destructive of all narcotics, and wishes he could speak through a lengthened trumpet, that he might tingle the ears of empyrics and charlatans in every avenue of their retreat."

As before stated, we could give scores of quotations in support of those foregoing, with reference to the effect of the three agencies employed by the Allopaths before the introduction of Physio-Medicalism, but we deem these sufficient to show that the Allopathic practice has been very much modified within the past fifty years. But we are told that this change in practice is not attributable to the cause referred to, so much as to the fact that the human constitution has undergone a radical change, by which the diseases have become modified to such an extent that the heroic remedies (bleeding, calomel and opium) are not admissible, as they were in past generations! Does not this explanation look thin, to use a common phrase, when we come to consider the very striking coincidence of the introduction of Physio-Medicalism and modification of disease? If disease has changed to more dangerous types, as has been said, and if, as celebrated professors of past generations declared, "bleeding was the *sheet anchor in all* inflammatory diseases," and, as another said, "mercury is the great regulator of the secretions—the key that unlocks the liver to free it of its morbid impurities;" or, as another professor declared, that "opium is the great *magnum deidonum* of the Materia Medica," why not use these agents in most dangerous forms of disease? We think the answer is very plain. The enlightenment of the people, by which they have been made to understand the dangerous results attending the use of "strong medicines," has deterred the people so far as to make them inquire of the doctor if he can not substitute something in their place, and if he says he can not, they generally hint to him something about changing physicians; and this generally brings him to the reflection that the case is so *peculiar* that they are justified in omitting the "heroic remedies" and substituting something more mild to suit the peculiarities of the case. Hence many of the doctors are following in the wake of Physio-Medicalists, and only giving poisons as the people are willing to take them; and yet they are still claiming that *they* only belong to the "regular profession;" and so these things have been going from year to year since Thomson's day, until now there is not one pint of blood drawn where there were gallons—perhaps barrels—before the danger of blood-letting was shown up by Physio-Medicalists. Nor do they give calomel and salivate, as they did years ago. It is true they have substituted the poisons just named, with chloral and many other poisons, which, in many cases, are quite as fatal in their effects; but still their practice is not generally so dangerous as before the days of Dr. Thomson. C.

COMMENTS

ON THE ARTICLE ON "CIRCULATION AND THE NERVOUS SYSTEM," PAGES 233 TO 240 OF THIS JOURNAL.

BY PROF. A. CURTIS, M. D.

I LOVE to hear the speech or read the writings of a man who is not afraid to express ideas or conclusions that are opposed to general opinions, supposed to be incontrovertible. Such a man is evidently your correspondent, W. L. Baker.

My desire, too, that the opinions of men who express so much of what is true and good, should be free from errors and bad tendencies, constrains me to point out to my respected co-laborer in the cause of Humanity, some pernicious errors which mar the beauty and tend to prevent the usefulness of his, in many respects, valuable article.

In the first place, he quotes from Pope's first Essay on Man (Sec. ix) the inimitable passage in which he says of the universe:

> "All are but parts of one stupendous whole,
> Whose body Nature is, and God the soul;
> That, changed through all, and yet in all the same,
> Great in the earth as in the ethereal frame;
> Warms in the sun, refreshes in the breeze," etc.

The poet dismally stated that man is one part of that "stupendous whole" (see the whole section), and that it is wrong for any one part to "aspire to be the whole." But friend Baker changes the poet's "soul of God" to electricity, and the words to correspond (an invisible something), and, in the last lines, "him" and "he" to "it," all which he had a right to do; but, as Pope would not approve of his changing the "soul" or power of God to electricity, he should not leave to the reader this difference of opinion between him and the poet, that the latter might not be made to sustain the opinion which the former would reject, as all readers who are not familiar with the original will do.

2. The first statement of Mr. Baker is, "to what [ever] department of this globe or its surrounding elements we turn our attention, electricity is there."

This is not correct. (See my Theory and Practice, pp. 33 to 69, Nos. 11, 15, 27, 33, 37, 40.) What evidence have we that electricity is in the center of a glass globe, a ball of sealing-wax, or even a block of dry wood? What experiment proves it?

3. "Wherever we witness convulsions in nature, the workings of this mighty unseen power are there."

If this means, and it evidently does, that electricity is the cause of all these convulsions, it certainly is not correct. Though light and heat are often disturbed and made manifest, by the friction of its rapid motion, it is not the cause of either. If it were the cause of light, we should see the light on the telegraphic wires; if of heat, we should feel the heat on the charged prime conductors of the jars attached to our electric machines, which we never do see; and it would always set on fire the dry substances, as dead trees, with which it comes in contact; but we often see the trees and the telegraph poles shivered to threads without being in the least degree scorched! Instead of "evaporating" it decomposes water, of which it sets free the elements, hydrogen and oxygen. Instead of "forming aerial conductors" for water, it can not pass through perfectly dry air. The water must first be "evaporated" into the air as a conductor, not as a servant, of electricity. Did Dr. Baker ever see a "chain of lightning" or hear a "clap of thunder" in an atmosphere entirely free from clouds? Instead of raising water from the oceans, seas, lakes, rivers, and the earth, does it not, when it enters the waters, already in the atmosphere, assist gravity to dash them to the earth in torrents? If electricity pervades every atom of matter, how is it that we can isolate it, or can turn it from its course by art?

If "electricity pervades the blossoms of spring and the fruits of autumn," what is the use of planting seeds or setting out roots or slips, or engrafting buds for these purposes? and how happens it that such a multitude of flowers and fruits of such widely different characters are the products of this one simple cause? In short, if any one of all the assertions of this first paragraph is true, all my three-score years of observation, experiment and demonstration must be false. More than this, the infallible doctrine of Nature, on which all true philosophy is built, that no simple motive power can act in diametrically opposite directions, must be false, and all her votaries, students and admirers are at sea in a crazy vessel, on an exploring expedition without a quadrant, sextant, telescope, compass, rudder or lead.

4. The statement that "man is but an epitome of the universe; that the chemical properties of all the various substances in existence, and in the most exact proportions, are concentrated in him," etc, has never been verified by analysis. The most careful and persevering efforts have been made to prove it by the most distinguished chemists, but no one dares risk his reputation by saying that he has found in the human body one-fourth of all the elements of Nature. But here I am happy to learn that, to finish this masterpiece of creation, the brain is invested with a "*living* spirit." More properly, a living spirit first constituted, and now pervades not only the brain but every portion of the perfect body.

"This incomprehensible spirit, like an enthroned Deity, presides over and governs, through electricity as its agent, all the voluntary motions of this organized corporeal universe."

This "vital spirit" being itself the agent of the organization, has no use for a power between itself and the nerves, the instruments which it constructed for the purpose of making them the media of its action through not only the voluntary but the involuntary organs of the body. The idea that the electrical law governs the motions of the planets and the digestion of my breakfast, and all under the direction of the *involuntary* power of the infinite spirit, is too far beyond my comprehension. I must ask friend Baker how an involuntary power can perform voluntary acts? We know, by our consciousness—the senses—and by experiments—the severing of nerves—that the mind receives or transmits impressions and motions; but how could electricity, an involuntary and unintelligent power, even if it did stand between mind and matter, give character as well as direction to the organs without the mind's control?

But, at last, I feel relieved. Friend Baker says, page 235, bottom, "The spirit or mind is the cause of all motion." In the first paragraph he said, electricity is the cause of all motion in both the inorganic and the vegetable world, and in the second paragraph, it is the cause of all motion in man. If so, it must have been the cause of his construction as well as of the uses of his organs when constructed, for construction is motion.

These two statements are directly opposed. They can not both be true, but they may be and *are* both erroneous. Electricity is not the cause of the structure of the human body, nor of any one of its physiological acts. Nor is the mind of man the cause of the motions of the heavenly bodies, nor in any way necessary to facilitate their motions.

As you say electricity is an involuntary power, you will not add that it can produce the voluntary motions of the mind, such as your conception and framing of your article, and mine in the exposition of its fallacies; nor that either of our minds can produce the motions that form crystals or those that hurl planets through their courses.

Having shown your proposition to be fallacious, I need scarcely trouble you with criticisms on your efforts to prove them true. Still, as they involve important practical results, I may do it at a more convenient season.

Cincinnati, O.

THEN AND NOW.

BY D. B. WIGGINS, M. D.

Many years ago, when I first began to investigate the subject of medical reform, the Allopathic school of medicine had it pretty much their own way. Very few at that time had the moral courage to advocate and practice medical reform; those that did were mostly Thomsonians or Botanics, very few Homeopaths or of any other school of medicine. The old school physicians of that day bled, blistered, gave calomel, mercury, blue pills, narcotics, and so on to the end of the chapter. They adopted the idea that poisons were good medicines, and practiced upon that theory. Depletion was the order of the day. They bled their patients for almost all forms of disease—for pleurisy to prostration, until there was not life enough to produce a reaction; in fevers and inflammations they went in for depletion; in cases of impure blood, congestion, apoplexy, headache, and the idea that it was good to bleed every spring, and oftentimes bled for bleeding, as was often the case in hemorrhage from the lungs and flooding in females, as if the life's blood was not going fast enough, that they should help to hasten on the final dissolution. And as an external application to produce counter irritation, a Spanish fly blister was almost the universal application, until the poison absorbed produced very dangerous results. Then came calomel, blue pills, and even mercury itself until the very flesh cleaved from the bones of their patients, and a universal cry went forth from the decayed bones and deformed features.

A few exceptions existed at that day. Good old Dr. Powell, of my boyhood days, was more conscientious than most of his associates, and did not altogether believe in those heroic doses of poisons, and was much more successful than they. This was owing in a great measure to a very celebrated pill he used in his practice, made of bread, as it proved to be after his death. These he gave where there was not much the matter, or when they did not need much medicine. Rather than give those articles he was well aware would injure them, he gave his pills.

There was another good old Vermont doctor, Prof. Gallop, of the University at Woodstock, who left on record his denunciation of opiates and blisters. Then the testimony of Prof. Chapman, who condemned in strong terms the use of calomel and mercury.

Dr. Rush had left on record his views of the then prevailing practice, viz: "They had increased disease; yea they had increased their mortality." Yet amid all this, the lesser lights of the practice carried out in their practice the principles of their schools with a high hand, all along that dark and dreary night of many years, until the people, with what they had learned of a better way, began to awake and demand a reform. They wanted less bleeding, blistering and calomel.

We of the reform school, at that time, for daring to denounce that practice that was killing (for we could not well call it by any milder name) its thousands, and sending its tens of thousands forth into the world "a grievous burden to themselves and a disgusting spectacle to the world," were denounced as quacks, ignorant pepper doctors, catnip doctors, and even sent the legs of the law after us for doing for the sick what we deemed to be for their benefit.

Now how changed. With the persistant efforts of the reformed school of medicine a great change has been brought about. The lancet has become rusty for the want of use; blisters are now seldom used, and the sale of calomel has fallen off more than one-half, and very few people now are willing to be blistered, bled and calomelized that were thirty or forty years ago.

Alas! what mischief was done before this could be brought about. There are no thanks to the doctors of the old school for this change. The people demanded the change. At first the doctors would take their hats and leave in haste when their patients would not submit, but after awhile they became a little more discreet and modified their practice, for they knew that there was some quack of a reformer ready to step in just upon the order of their going.

If the course pursued by the doctors of that day was right and successful, it should be now. Time has shown that we were right, and to have demonstrated the fact is well worth the opposition we received at their hands. Our remedies are equally as efficacious as when Dr. Thomson sounded the tocsin of war upon the granite hills of New Hampshire, more than eighty years ago.

And now what's to hinder the removal of the few minor partition walls still remaining between us and the regular practice since the main barriers have been broken down? Nothing but a steady and persevering effort on our part, and a unanimity of feeling. Had this existed, had the theory of fever and inflammation been properly understood, and the line between poisons and non-poisons been properly drawn, sanative medicalism would have been universal to-day.

It seems singular to me that the question of what is and what is not a poison should still remain unsettled. So far as I am concerned, I drew a line at the outset between poisons and non-poisons, and with the abundance of simple remedies before me, I have never thought proper to step over the line to the poison side, to the hazardous attempt of using those articles or even the use of those of a doubtful reputation.

It appears to me that the difference between quantity and quality is not sufficiently understood. A man may kill himself by eating bread, meat and potatoes. This can only be done by the quantity he takes. Certainly no one could be so ungenerous as to call the staff of life a poison. A man may also kill himself by taking arsenic, because it is the natural tendency of arsenic, in however small doses, to be injurious to the human organism. See the quiet but positive effect upon those that are in the habit of eating it daily. What is true of arsenic is equally true of other poisons, as lead, antimony, opium, aconite, belladonna, etc.

A man may, by the influence of liquor, be able to do two days work in one. The dyspeptic may be able to make his digestive organs to digest a hearty meal by the aid of capsicum. It is yet undecided that pure liquor is a poison, nor would it, in my opinion, be proper to call capsicum a poison. The injury is brought about by overstimulating the organs, thereby calling forth a corresponding reaction.

In health all the human organism requires is simple, plain food, air and water. To say that everything that shall carry the action of those organs above or below the healthy or physiological standard is a poison, is to my mind not a proper definition of the term. A whipping may, for the time being, bring the action of a boy above par, while the motion of a boat in a gale may take it below. I concur in the ideas advanced by my old friend, Prof. Carey, during the discussion in the late convention, upon this subject, and am happy to see that he is still, as he always has been, sound in the head on the fundamental principles of our profession.

To me, in view of the great change that has taken place in the practice of medicine for the past few years, with a unanimity of feeling and action, and laying aside the use of positive and doubtful poisons, the future looks exceedingly prosperous and bright. If we but use our best endeavors to educate and convince the people that our remedies are the most successful, the great object—sanative medication—for which we labor will be obtained.

Prof. H. says, in a late letter on this subject: "There seem to be insurmountable objects in the way of educating the masses of men, particularly in medicine. They will not be educated. They seem to take no thought of their physical well being, and if you gave them literature gratuitously, but few of them would read or study. So it looks like an up-hill business to attempt to get them to thinking. Many of them will not see the superiority of a sanative medication in individual cases, and the very first time they get sick they will "gulp down destructive agents, because it is more convenient to get a regular than a reformer." Have I not seen these many years—this ingratitude. So many when down with disease, promise all sorts of things if you will only get them up again, when they will manifest the utmost indifference. But what are we going to do? Where is our practice coming from, or the advancement of our profession, if we do not give them "line upon line, precept upon precept," "here a little and there a little." Having taken hold of the plough, I do not readily see the policy of looking back. I am aware that the growth of our cause seems exceedingly slow, not unlike, oftentimes, the convalescence of some of our patients, hardly perceptible from day to day, but if we look back a week we can readily see the improvement. If we take a retrospective view of our cause for twenty or thirty years, the improvement should give us hope for the future, until other changes be brought about, and the universal medical practice shall be settled down to the use of simple vegetable remedies in the treatment of disease.

Buffalo, N. Y.

RECOLLECTIONS OF LIFE AND MEDICAL PRACTICE.

BY AN ORIGINAL PHYSICIAN—DR. JOSEPH GRAY.

No. 4.—Inflammation of the Bowels.

I was called to a middle-aged man, whose bowels were hard as a rock. Medicine had been administered by a good Allopath until nothing would remain upon his stomach, so very weak that he vomited even water gruel. The M. D. had left him to die. I was called. I said that too much had been done in a wrong direction, and unless I could get something to remain in his stomach no good would be produced. I gave him one drop of oil of peppermint upon loaf sugar, knowing his stomach would not eject that; on the contrary, it diffused warmth throughout the system, and produced a pleasant sensation, agreeable to the patient. After a little I gave him just one more drop of the oil of peppermint upon loaf-sugar. This prepared the way for physic, which I then gave him without any regard to what had already been given him, thinking it dead or inactive. Knowing how soon the physic ought to operate, about the time it should evacuate his bowels I assisted it and nature by an injection or enema. This cleared him out, softened his bowels, gave him immediate ease, and when his attendant physician called in the morning he was dumb with astonishment at the convalescent state of the patient, who was soon well.

ANOTHER CASE.—I was called to see a woman, supposed to be dying. I thought she would die. I was then young. I requested them to send for Dr. Parker. Meanwhile I did the best I could. I had read of a cat's skin being applied and giving relief. Accordingly I ordered a lamb skin. I knew it good to absorb poison. Applied the flesh side to the bowels. I ordered this done, and the woman was relieved before the arrival of Dr. P., and was well in a few days.

CASE 3.—A young man, aged seventeen, had been sick with fever, attended by Dr. B., Allopathist. During convalescence he desired honey. A small amount was allowed him ; but not being satisfied, he arose from his bed and helped himself, eating as much as he wanted. He was soon tossing about and in great agony. I happened in and at once put him into a warm bath. While at this, I discovered numerous black spots over his abdomen. Gave him a whole teaspoonful of cayenne at a dose, and after the bath ordered hot *turf* to be applied over the bowels. This seemed to accomplish but little, and a lamb was ordered killed and the skin stripped off rapidly and applied, while yet warm, to the young man's abdomen. The skin soon became as spotted as his bowels, and gave off a putrid odor. The dejections from his bowels were stringy, like the lining of an egg shell. But the young man recovered from this semi-gangrenous state, and often remarked that "a lamb skin once saved his life."

[NOTE. — We have frequently heard of the skin of animals being used for diseased conditions, and if *fresh beef* is good for "*bunged eyes*," why may not the lamb or cat skin do for some difficulties ?—EDS.]

FRACTURE OF PATELLA.

BY A. H. BAIRD, M. D.

A GENTLEMAN of twenty-five had the misfortune to break the patella transversely, and came to the hospital for treatment. On flexion of the limb, the opening between the severed parts was about one and one-half inches, caused by the contraction of the attached muscles above and below. He was laid upon a couch and put under the influence of chloroform. The foot was elevated and limb straightened, which brought the severed parts in contact again, or nearly so. So far, all right. But now came the humane and scientific treatment. To retain the parts in this position, an instrument of steel, with two hooks each on the upper and lower side, connected by a screw, to increase or lessen the distance between the points, having the appearance of two grappling-irons, was now made use of. Two of the hooks were worked and drawn into the flesh and muscles below the patella and two above it; then by traction of said hooks by use of the connecting screw, the bone was firmly held in place.

Now for the result as far as we could know. After lying in this position twenty-eight days—the knee and the adjacent parts to the fracture swollen to more than twice their natural size, and full of inflammation and pain—the large gashes made by the enlargement tearing the flesh as it escaped from the confinement of the hooks, presenting four ghastly wounds—chloroform had to be resorted to again to extricate the hooks, secure the position by adhesive straps, and to institute some vigorous medical treatment to save the limb. The limb was not exhibited again, nor report made as to the final result. This we call barbarous treatment, and only fit for a barbarous people and a barbarous age.

Our treatment for such an injury would be to envelope the limb above and below the knee with a strong cotton or linen bandage three or more inches in width, cementing them tightly to the flesh and muscles having connection with the patella, four or five inches above and the same distance below the fractured bone. Now prepare a strap about four inches in width (or two one-half the width, as thought best), of some strongly elastic material (say rubber), and long enough to reach from the upper edge of the upper bandage nearly to the lower edge of the lower bandage. Cement one end of this strap firmly to the upper bandage; elevate the foot, straighten the limb, and by further pressure with the hands if necessary, bring the severed bones together; extend the strap as much as thought necessary, and cement the other end firmly to the lower bandage. Now run a narrow strap around the cap, cementing it firmly to prevent a lateral motion. These fixtures will hold the severed parts to their proper place, allow flexion of the joint without displacement, leave the knee cool and free for any needed application, and best of all, save the poor unfortunate weeks and months of the extremest torture.

Jackson, Mich.

RECOVERY AFTER EXTENSIVE LACERATION OF THE BRAIN.

A VERY general opinion prevails with the mass of the people, that the penetration of the brain by any instrument is necessarily and almost instantly fatal, and hence when such an accident occurs it often produces unnecessary alarm; for, though such accidents are very dangerous, they are not necessarily always fatal. Perhaps every physician is acquainted with the history of a very remarkable accident which occurred in Vermont, September 13, 1848, but we give the account here for the benefit of the non-professional reader: A man aged twenty-five years was engaged in a quarry blasting rock, and at the time of the accident was ramming a charge with a tamping iron, three feet seven inches long, one inch and a fourth in diameter, and weighing thirteen and a half pounds. From some cause the charge ignited prematurely, and this bar of iron passed through the man's head, entering at the left cheek, came out near the center of the top of the head, and was picked up several rods from where the accident occurred. Of course, at first the wound was supposed to be fatal; but, contrary to the expectation of all, the man recovered, with the loss only of the sight of the left eye. Some time after his recovery he traveled from city to city exhibiting the bar which had passed through his head, and which of course had destroyed a considerable portion of his brain, as well as a portion of his skull—two and a half inches in diameter. For about twelve years after the accident this man seemed to enjoy pretty good health, when in the city of San Francisco he had a violent fit or spasm, which was soon succeeded by several others, and he finally died the following August, about twelve years and a half after the accident occurred. His physician, Dr. Harlow, kept trace of him, and after his death secured his skull, which now occupies a place in the Warren Museum in the city of Boston.

This is, perhaps, one of the most remarkable cases on record in which a recovery has taken place after such extensive destruction of the brain; but many other cases of quite extensive laceration and destruction have been known to recover. We know a young man in Ohio, who received a pistol ball of large size, which entered the brain at the right lateral portion of the head, at about the organ of "Cautiousness," the ball traversing the brain downwards, or rather obliquely, towards the anterior portion of the left ear. A distinguished surgeon of Cincinnati was called, who probed the wound for five inches, without reaching the ball. He then decided that recovery was impossible, and therefore any further exploration was useless, and so the ball was allowed to remain. Contrary to all expectation, the young man did not die, but after several months he recovered with only a partial paralysis of his left arm. When we heard from him two years after the accident, he bid fair to live on for years to come.

Many other cases of a somewhat similar kind have come to our knowledge, which we omit to report, as these are sufficient for our purpose of sustaining the declaration at the commencement of this article. C.

CURE FOR PUNCTURED WOUNDS.

THE following, which we find in the Ripley (O.) *Bee*, is perhaps a somewhat exaggerated statement of the curative powers of vapor from burning wool; yet, from what we have seen, we know that its curative properties are very great, and therefore worthy of a thorough test. The remedy proposed has this to commend it to public attention: it is perfectly harmless, though it may not be so efficacious as represented. The wound should be held so near the burning substance as to receive the heat as well as the smoke arising from it:

"Every little while we read in the papers of some one who has stuck a rusty nail in his foot, or knee, or hand, or some other portion of his body, and that lockjaw resulted therefrom, of which the patient died.

"If every person in the world was aware of a perfect remedy for all such wounds, and would apply it, then all such reports would cease. But although we can give the remedy, we can not enforce the application.

"Some will not employ it because they think it too simple; others have no faith in it when they read it; while others often think such a wound of small importance and not worth fussing over, until it is too late to do any good. Yet all such wounds can be healed without such fatal consequences as follow them.

"The remedy is simple, almost always on hand, and can be applied by any one, and what is better, it is infallible. It is simply to smoke such wound, or any wound or bruise that is inflamed, with burning wool or woolen cloth. Twenty minutes in the smoke of wool will take the pain out of the worst wound, and repeated once or twice, it will allay the worst case of inflammation arising from a wound we ever saw.

"People may sneer at the 'old woman's remedy' as much as they please, but when they are afflicted, just let them try it. It has saved many lives and much pain, and is worthy of being printed in letters of gold and put up in every home."

———o———

POTENTILLA CANADENSIS—CINQUEFOIL.—Dr. J. B. Hoag, in the June issue of the *Medical Review*, speaks of this article in the highest terms, giving amongst other cases reported, one in which a strong infusion of the herb given in half teaspoonful doses, every hour, relieved a typhoid fever patient in one night, who had been considered hopeless. He also states that it has been used in many other typhoid cases with the most satisfactory results. We have used this article to a small extent, and confess that we have not seen such marvelous results as here stated; but as the article is perfectly safe, we would advise our physicians to give it a trial and report the result. Do not lay this aside and forget it, but try it the first opportunity. C.

EYE-CUPS.

BY D. C. WILSON, M. D.

I HAVE met with these instruments, made for the purpose of cupping the eye, in the hands of the people in all parts of the country, and along with them a circular recommending their use as a curative measure in all kinds of eye diseases. I will refer to a case that fully illustrates my ideas in regard to their use:

J. H. Stromatt, of Shawneetown, Ill., applied to me for relief, with a pair in his possession which he had used with more than ordinary diligence. There were large fungus growths filling the lower cul de sacs and external canthi to such an extent as to completely obscure the pupils, and an elongation of one upper lid so that it extended partially over the lower lid.

He stated that his case was only an ordinary case of granular conjuntivitis when he commenced the use of the eye-cups, and that the growths and enlargement of the lids came on gradually during the eight months' time that he was using the cups.

I removed the fungus growths with knife and scissors, and told him to give the eye-cups to the children to play with. I gave him an astringent eye lotion to use, and he soon recovered the use of his eyes.

I have met with two cases of cataract which were plainly traceable to the use of eye-cups. They press upon the ciliary body and interfere with the nutrition of the lens.

The man who invented them never intended them to be used in any form of inflammation of the eyes, but only to increase the convexity of the cornea so as to enable old people to do without spectacles.

Terre Haute, Ind.

PARENTAL CORRECTIONS.

THAT man commits a crime, and so does the woman, who will send a child to bed with a wounded spirit, or who shall allow any vindictiveness of feeling to exist in consequence of anything the child may have done. Sharp-pointed memories have often driven men mad; multitudes are there who are more dead than alive, from the ailings of the mind, which is wasting itself away in vain remorses for the irrevocable past. The fault of most parents is over-harsh reproofs of their children; reproofs that are hasty, unproportioned to the offense, and hence, as to one's own child, helpless and unresisting, are a cruelty as well as an injustice. Thrice happy is that parent who has no child in the grave which can be wished back, only if for a brief space, so as to afford some opportunity for repairing some unmerited unkindness toward the dead darling. Parents have been many times urged in these pages to make persistent efforts to arrange, two things in domestic intercourse, and to spare no pains and no amount of moral courage and determination, in order that they should be brought about. It may require a thousand efforts, and there may be a thousand failures, as discouraging as they are sad; still let the high resolve go out, "it shall be done!" and the prickling of many a thorn will be spared in after years and in old age. The two points to be daily aimed at are:

First. Let the family table be always a meeting-place of pleasantness, and affection and peace, and for the exhibition of all the sweeter feelings of domestic life.

Second. Let every child be sent to bed with kisses of affection, especially those under ten years of age.

All that is on this globe could not hire me to be put in the place of either the father or the mother in the following narration of the former editor of a monthly of deserved repute in its time. The occurrence took place in Boston, about the year 1850, and every detail is minutely and literally true:

"'A few weeks before, L. B. H. wrote to me that he had buried his eldest son, a fine, manly little fellow of eight years of age, who had never known a day's illness until that which finally removed him hence, to be here no more. His death occurred under circumstances which were peculiarly painful to his parents. A younger brother, a delicate, sickly child from its birth, the next in age to him, had been down for nearly a fortnight with an epidemic fever. In consequence of the nature of the disease, every precaution had been adopted that prudence suggested to guard the other members of the family against it. But of this one, the father's eldest, he said he had little to fear, so rugged was he and so generally healthy. Still, however, he kept a vigilant eye upon him, and especially forbade him from going into the pools and docks near his school, which it was [illegible] custom sometimes to visit; for he was but a boy, and 'boys will be boys,' and we ought more frequently to think that it is their nature to be. Of all unnatural things, a reproach almost to childish frankness and innocence, save me from a 'boy-man!' But to the story.

"One evening this unhappy father came home, wearied with a long day's hard labor, and vexed at some little disappointments which had soured his naturally kind disposition, and rendered him peculiarly susceptible to the smallest annoyance. While he was sitting by the fire, in this unhappy mood of mind, his wife entered the apartment and said:

"'Henry has just come in, and he is a perfect fright. He is covered from head to foot with dock mud, and is as wet as a drowned rat!'

"'Where is he?' asked the father, sternly.

"'He is shivering over the kitchen-fire. He was afraid to come up here when the girl told him you had come home.'

"'Tell Jane to tell him to come here this instant!' was the brief reply to this information.

"Presently the poor boy entered, half perished with affright and cold. His father glanced at his sad plight, reproached him bitterly with his disobedience, spoke of the punishment which awaited him in the morning, as the penalty for his offense, and in a harsh voice concluded with:

"'Now, sir, go to your bed!'

"'But, father,' said the little fellow, 'I want to tell you—'

"'Not a word, sir; *go to bed!*'

"'I only wanted to say, father, that—'

"With a peremptory stamp, an imperative wave of the hand toward the door, and a frown upon his brow, did that father, without other speech, again close the door of explanation and expostulation.

"When the boy had gone supperless and sad to his bed, the father sat restless and uneasy while supper was being prepared, and at tea-table ate but little. His wife saw the real cause, or the additional cause of his emotion, and interposed the remark:

"'I think, my dear, you ought at least to have heard what Henry had to say. My heart ached for him when he turned away with his eyes full of tears. Henry is a good boy, after all, if he does sometimes do wrong. He is a tender-hearted, affectionate boy. He always was.'

"And therewithal the water stood in the eyes of that forgiving mother, even as it stood in the eyes of Mercy, in 'the house of the Interpreter,' as recorded by Bunyan.

"After tea the evening paper was taken up; but there was no news and nothing of interest for that father in the journal of that evening. He sat for some time in an evidently painful reverie, and then rose and repaired to his bedchamber. As he passed the bedroom where his little boy slept, he thought he would look in upon him before retiring to rest. He crept to his low cot, and bent over him. A big tear had stolen down the boy's cheek and rested upon it, but he was sleeping calmly and sweetly. The father deeply regretted his harshness as he gazed upon his son, but he felt also the 'sense of duty;' yet in the night, talking the matter over with the lad's mother, he resolved and promised, instead of punishing, as he had threatened, to make amends to the boy's aggrieved spirit in the morning for the manner in which he had repelled all explanation of his offense.

"But that morning never came to the poor child in health. He awoke the next morning with a raging fever on his brain, and wild with delirium. In forty-eight hours he was in his shroud. He knew neither his father nor his mother, when they were first called to his bedside, nor at any moment afterward. Waiting, watching for one token of recognition, hour after hour, in speechless agony, did that unhappy father bend over the couch of his dying son. Once, indeed, he thought he saw a smile of recognition light up his dying eye, and he leaned eagerly forward, for he would have given worlds to have whispered one kind word in his ear and have been answered; but that gleam of apparent intelligence passed quickly away, and was succeeded by the cold, unmeaning glare, and the wild tossing of the fevered limbs, which lasted until death came to his relief.

"Two days afterward the undertaker came with the little coffin, and his son, a playmate of the deceased boy, bringing the low stools on which it was to stand in the entry-hall.

"'I was with Henry,' said the lad, 'when he got into the water. We were playing down at the Long Wharf—Henry and Frank Mumford and I; and the tide was out very low, and there was a beam run out from the wharf, and Charles got out on it to get a fish line and hook that hung over where the water was deep, and the first thing we saw he had slipped off and was struggling in the water! Henry threw off his cap and jumped clear from the wharf into the water, and after a great deal of hard work, got Charles out; and they waded up through the mud to where the wharf was not so wet and slippery, and then I helped them to climb up the side. Charles told Henry not to say anything about it, for if he did his father would never let him go near the water again. Henry was very sorry, and all the way going home he kept saying:

" 'What will father say when he sees me to-night? I wish we had not gone to the wharf!'

"'Dear, brave boy!' exclaimed the bereaved father; 'and this was the explanation which I so cruelly refused to hear!' And hot and bitter tears rolled down his cheeks.

"Yes, that stern father now learned, and for the first time, that what he had treated with unwonted severity as a fault was but the impulse of a generous nature, which, forgetful of self, had hazarded life for another. It was but the quick prompting of that manly spirit which he himself had always endeavored to graft upon his susceptible mind, and which, young as he was, had already manifested itself on more than one occasion.

"Let me close this story in the very words of that father, and let the lesson sink deep into the heart of every parent who shall peruse this sketch:

" 'Everything that I now see that ever belonged to him reminds me of my lost boy. Yesterday I found some rude pencil sketches, which it was his delight to make for the amusement of his younger brother. To-day, in rummaging an old closet, I came across his boots, still covered with dock mud, as when he last wore them. (You may think it strange, but that which is usually so unsightly an object is now most precious to me.) And every morning and evening I pass the ground where my son's voice rang the merriest among his playmates.

" 'All these things speak to me vividly of his active life, but I can not—though I have often tried—I can not recall any other expression on the dear boy's face than that mute, mournful one with which he turned from me on the night I so harshly repulsed him. * * Then my heart bleeds afresh!

" 'Oh! how careful should we be that in our daily conduct toward those little beings sent us by a kind Providence, we are not laying up for ourselves the sources of many a future bitter tear! How cautious that, neither by inconsiderate nor cruel word or look, we unjustly grieve their generous feeling! And how guardedly ought we to weigh every action against its motive, lest, in a moment of excitement, we be led to mete out to the venial errors of the heart the punishment due only to willful crime!

" 'Alas! perhaps few parents suspect how often the fierce rebuke, the sudden blow, is answered in their children by the tears, not of passion, not of physical or mental pain, but of a loving yet grieved or outraged nature!' "—*Hall's Journal of Health.*

DEFENSE OF THE OLEANDER.

It is passing strange that the medical journalists and newspaper men generally have no more discretion than they exhibit by thrusting before the eyes of the people their warnings against the use of things which are fashionable. Journalists ought to know that fashionable people (and who is not fashionable in these days?) do not thank them for their instructions and admonitions about the use of such things. For who wants to be reminded of their sins and short-comings? I am sure these fashionable ladies and gentlemen do not, and journalists ought to be careful lest they lose their "bread and butter" because of their indiscretion, I would say imprudence. I was led to make these remarks by reading the following in a newspaper a day or two ago: "Lovers of house plants will be sorry to learn that the Oleander is a dangerous plant; but so it is. Children have been poisoned by eating the flower petals; cattle have been killed by eating the leaves; a single drop of the milky juice which exudes when a leaf or twig is broken off may produce the death of an infant. The odor inhaled from the flowers is also deleterious to general health."

Now, who did not know all this? Who has not read of numerous instances of children being poisoned, sometimes killed, by eating the petals of the Oleander flower? Or who does not know that valuable cattle have been killed by browsing upon the leaves? Or who does not know that the cultivation of the Oleander is attended with great trouble and expense, and that its flowers are quite inferior in beauty to many flowers which are very easily cultivated? Or who does not know that its flowers have no fragrance, but emit a disagreeable stench to the nostrils of every lady or gentleman, and is therefore detrimental to health? But then the Oleander is a fashionable plant, and that is the end of the argument—that settles the question about the propriety of its cultivation. As long as Oleanders are fashionable (and who ever saw a fashionable house without one?) of course fashionable people *must* and *will* have them, the danger to life and property notwithstanding. If the cow eats the leaves of the Oleander and is killed, why, of course, fashionable people can buy another, or do without a cow. Or if the baby eats the petals and gets poisoned to death, why the parents may have another baby sometime; or if they don't, the lady can get a poodle, a cat, or a canary, upon which she can bestow her affections and still keep her Oleander, and live in the hight of fashion. Strange that these journalists ignore or forget the good old maxim—"Better be out of the world than out of fashion"—but will still keep up a war of words against poisonous house plants, especially when they are so fashionable as the Oleander. I would therefore say to the fashionable, stick to the Oleander, and let the babies and the cattle go, and so says Madam Fashion, and that settles it. S.

It is a remarkable thing that fashion is always at home. She always has something fresh to say or something new to show you—some unique and often very ridiculous caprice to set off, and she always convinces you that it is charming. We might almost travesty St. Paul, and say: "And now abideth these three—faith, hope and fashion, and the greatest of these three is fashion."

There is an Illinois conductor who deserves the most conspicuous place in the next Sabbath school books. He was so kind to an old lady when she got off the train at Dewitt, and rendered her so much assistance in getting her baggage to the depot, that a passenger asked him if the old lady was his mother. "O, no," was the reply, "but she is somebody's mother."

The woman who always shuts doors and gates after her and never hankers after striped hose, is surely entitled to the brightest kind of a starry crown.

EXPLANATION.

SICKNESS of the member of the committee who had the principal charge of the publication of this journal, and other causes which it is not necessary for us to now state, have prevented the JOURNAL from appearing promptly, as we desired. This we very much regretted, but of course could not avoid. We hope that our subscribers will bear with us, and we will try to regain the lost time before the close of the year. COMMITTEE.

AT the last meeting of the Indiana State Physio-Medical Convention it was ordered that the report of the proceedings be published in this journal, and the publication was commenced in the July issue. Owing to the sickness of the Secretary of that association, he was unable to prepare the manuscript for this issue, but we hope to continue the report in our next issue, which will probably appear soon.

COMMITTEE.

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Physio-Medical Journal

AND

REFORM ADVOCATE.

VOL. I. *INDIANAPOLIS, OCT., 1875.* No. 10.

THORACENTESIS.

TAPPING AND DRAINING THE PLEURA.

THE September issue of the *Medical News and Library* reports a clinical lecture by Berkley Hill, surgeon to the University College Hospital, which contains many points of interest to both professional and non-professional readers, on the subject of tapping and draining the pleura (cavity of the chest). He says the fluid to be drawn may be dropsical, serous exudation, or it may be pus; that in either case it may be necessary to perform thoracentesis to draw off the fluids, especially when the fluids have accumulated to a very great extent, and more especially when serous accumulations, which often take place after inflammation of the pleura and other organs, subside, and these degenerate into pus; because the pus is absorbed much more slowly than simple serum, and often accumulates to such an extent as to greatly hinder or prevent the action of the lung. But he very justly remarks that sometimes morbid adhesions of the parts surrounding the lungs often take place, and prevent the action of the lungs, so that even after the fluids are drawn off recovery becomes impossible because of the adhesions. He further states that nature sometimes relieves herself by forming an opening into the bronchus (air passages or windpipe), by which the pus is discharged and recovery becomes possible. Or an outlet may be formed between the ribs to the surface of the chest, and a cure be effected in that way; so that by either of these ways a cure becomes possible.

Formerly there was a long list of objections to the operation, but now it is becoming more popular since the practice of using a very small instrument has come about. It was once held that to tap when the patient has fever, increased the inflammation; but that has been proven to be a mistake, for Dr. Ringer has operated in many cases where the febrile excitement was considerably lessened after the operation; and that Dr. Bowditch has operated in about two hundred and fifty cases without wounding the intercostal vessels (vessels between the ribs), notwithstanding the operation was once considered so dangerous on account of the risk of wounding these vessels. He says the objection to the operation because of the admission of air into the cavity of the chest, is not without foundation; but it is not necessarily fatal, nor even very injurious, for air has again and again got into the chest without producing any serious injury; but it is not fully settled as to whether it is proper to completely drain the chest after the operation. There is also some disagreement as to the proper point to operate; but it is generally agreed that the best place to introduce the trocar is in the side, between the sixth and seventh ribs, which is about on a level with the nipple. There is no advantage in extracting as much of the fluid as possible, for often great pain and sometimes fatal results follow from so doing. If the patient feels a tearing pain, or begins to cough violently, the flow of pus should be stopped at once. In case it is deemed necessary to drain the chest of pus, the operation should be made just at the lower angle of the scapula (shoulder-blade), between the eighth and ninth ribs; and then after the opening is made, a tube should be inserted and well secured, to keep it from slipping into the chest (an accident which has frequently occurred), and the mouth of the tube should be covered with lint or tarred hemp to receive the pus.

On the question of the propriety of using anesthetics, we give the lecturer's own language: "Dr. Bowditch is most strongly opposed to their use. He has narrated to Dr. Clifford Allbutt, of Leeds, that in five cases where ether was administered, two died shortly after the operation, a third was restored only by most energetic means, including tracheotomy (making an opening into the windpipe), and the ether was abandoned in the remainder before the operation was completed. With such examples, anesthetics should not be used for simple tapping. If the patient dread the prick, the skin may be numbed by ether spray. Nevertheless, when an incision has to be made through thick muscles at the back, and the often tedious operation of introducing a drainage tube to be undergone, the pain is severe, and the shock to the patient in his depressed state proportionally great. In such cases chloroform is given without hesitation in this hospital, and certainly so far without fatal result. I have notes of several cases where I have operated while the patient was under chloroform, large quantities—twenty, thirty and thirty-seven ounces—of fluid having been withdrawn without any serious difficulty, and in most cases without any unusual symptoms whatever. I do not know how often my colleagues have resorted to chloroform, but I am not alone in using it. Dr. Allbutt remarks that in one of his cases chloroform was used, the result was fairly good. Hence, though anesthetics are not to be lightly resorted to, they may be safely employed when really required. It is worth notice, also, that ether was the source of mischief in the fatal cases, and that chloroform was well borne in our cases."

In regard to the propriety of using injections, the lecturer said he had had no success with them, and he advises that nothing more than injections of warm water are safe; that antiseptics of all kinds hurt the patient; that owing to adhesions or other loss of expansive power in the lung, there remains permanently a small cavity which, if kept clear by assiduous drainage, interferes but little with the patient's health or occupation; and he cites two cases, which came under his notice, in which men who labored daily wore a silver canula for several years to drain off the pus which accumulated to the amount of a few teaspoonfuls each day. And he also cites the case of a girl upon whom he operated, who wore a silver tube in her side where she had empyema (internal abscess), and during that period she had scarlet fever, and yet recovered with but slight deformity. "In concluding," he says, "let me mention that when there is great distortion and displacement of the viscera, through collapse of the thorax after empyema, sudden death by syncope may happen."

We have in brief given the subject of the whole lecture, which, when taken altogether, is, we think, both interesting and instructive, as showing the authorized surgical practice of the day in cases of empyema, especially that part of the lecture which relates to the use of anesthetics. But we must say that we think there is not much practical instruction in the lecture for the Physio-Medicalist who, by the use of his stimulant and tonics to sustain the powers of the system, and the use of vapor-baths, which promote absorption, not only of serum but of pus also, can cure many of these cases without an operation as detailed by the lecturer. We are aware that a physician may in many communities gain more renown, by performing one such operation, even though it may prove fatal, than by curing five patients by the use of nature's remedies; but the approval of a good conscience is worth more than renown, even though it should be accompanied by a large fee.

C.

A CASE IN PRACTICE.

BY A. H. BRILL, M. D.

On the 5th of August I was called to see the son of Mr. T. The little boy, aged 10 years, while running, had fallen and fractured the forearm. The bones were both broken about the center, and forced through the muscles on the anterior of the arm, also through the sleeve of his shirt. The wound was transverse and sufficiently large to admit the entrance of two fingers. It was undoubtedly a bad case of compound fracture. I told the parents the danger of such a fracture, and what might be the consequence; but they wished an attempt made to save the arm. I put the boy under the influence of chloroform and carefully examined the wound for pieces of bone, but found none. I then brought the ends of the bones in apposition, and in the splint on the front of the arm over the wound I made a trap door through which I could dress the wound. Local treatment: Kept the diluted comp. tinct. myrrh, (number six), with a little oil of sassafras added; internally a powder composed of oils of lobelia and xanthaxylum triturated and cypripedin. The boy suffered but little; the wound healed rapidly, with but little suppuration, and at present (less than a month since the accident) the wound entirely healed, the provisional callous quite firm, perfect use of his hand and arm, without deformity.

Barstell, O.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE PHYSIO-MEDICAL ASSOCIATION OF INDIANA.

Thirteenth Annual Session, June 8th, 9th and 10th, 1875.

SECOND DAY.

MORNING SESSION.

SENATE CHAMBER, INDIANAPOLIS, IND., June 9, 1875.

(Continued from No. 8 of this Journal.)

Dr. Davidson—When we are able to point out the characteristics which distinguish poisons from innocent agents, we will then be able to discover and reject the poisons themselves. So far as I have been able to learn, the properties of medical agents, whether sanative or noxious, are fixed and definite, and the character of their action is uniformly the same in all cases; and while it is true that medicines may suffer, in quality, from age or exposure and consequent partial decomposition, rendering them comparatively inert and worthless, yet this circumstance will not disprove the definite and specific character of agents, because those injured specimens will continue to exert what power they possess in a definite and uniform manner, never for a moment changing the character of their action, not even to accommodate the fanciful speculations of men.

The variable results which are observed to follow the administration of some agents, are due to the responsive action of different systems under differing conditions, and not to any variation in the action of the agents. These cases, rightly understood, will point us to the individuality of mankind, but will never lead us to doubt the stability of nature's laws. They furnish illustrations of the various behavior of different individuals under partially similar circumstances. Suppose, Mr. President, you should arm yourself with a good cow-hide whip, take your station on a frequented corner of the street, and give every man who passes a sharp blow in order that you may note the conduct of each. The first man may be a sedate Quaker, who quietly passes without resentment; the next, a timid fellow, who quickly flies beyond your reach; the third, a spiritless creature, who cringes and scowls, but gets out of your way; the fourth curses and blusters at a terrible rate, but keeps beyond the reach of your whip; the fifth turns on you sharply and demands the cause of your conduct. You say you are a scientific man, performing an experiment for the benefit of science, and politely beg his pardon. He growls and passes on; but the sixth fellow goes at you like fury, and boots you half a square before he lets up.

Now, gentlemen, will you say that the action of the whip changed its character at every blow, and by this means excited different passions in the men? Or, will you allow that the difference in conduct arose from a difference in constitution and temper of the men, and that the action of the whip was precisely the same in each case? I think you will all agree with me in this position, because its correctness is apparent. Then will you not also agree with me that the action of any agent on the human system, whether innocent or otherwise, is no less specific and uniform in character than is the action of a whip on the backs of men; and that the varieties of responsive physiological actions which follow, proceed from the individual peculiarities and varying conditions of the subject presented, and not from any vacillating property possessed by the agent.

Idiosyncrasy does not change the character of agents, or modify their action. It is nothing more than a marked or prominent peculiarity of constitution, causing the individual to behave in a peculiar and uncommon manner while under the influence of medicine. Indeed, I know of no circumstance or condition into which a patient may get, that will at all modify or change the character of the action which is exerted by agents, whether medicinal or poisonous. It is always necessary to effect a change in the character of the agent itself before the character of its action can be changed.

But there are certain characteristics which distinguish poisons from innocent substances, and it is important that we should be able to discover and point them out; at least the more prominent and important ones should be understood.

1. All agents, by means of their acting capacity, make impressions on the human system, and by observing the character of these impressions we become acquainted with the character of the agents. By their works we know them; and we never gain any definite knowledge of their medical properties except by observing *what they do.* True, medicines have physical properties, but a thorough examination of these, aided by chemical analysis, will furnish no clue to their medicinal qualities. We *must* observe their *work* in order to *know* them.

2. All medical agents, whether destructive or harmless, by their action change the condition of the tissues on which their force is exerted; and this change occurs all the same whether the subject be diseased or in health. Just here is where we are liable to get into the fog. A very logical philosopher declares, "That when a man is in health—in a physiological condition—and we change that condition, he is then out of health, has departed from a physiological

condition, and is therefore in a diseased condition, consequently the agent which produced the change is a disease-producing agent, and therefore a poison. Also, if all medicines change the condition of the system when given in health, then all medicines are poison to a healthy man."

Now let us endeavor to learn how much of this is true, by observing the physiological changes and ever-varying conditions that occur in the system of a healthy man, without the slightest disturbance of health.

We examine the man while in a state of repose. His muscles are relaxed, his mind inactive, his heart throbs 60 times per minute, and he breathes once every four seconds. His surface is pleasantly warm and pliant. So after a careful examination we decide that he is in a good healthy condition. Two hours after this we discover the same man actively engaged at hard labor. His cheeks are flushed; he is bathed in perspiration which drops from his face and saturates his clothing; the temperature of his body is varied, and he frequently drinks copiously of cold water, for his thirst is urgent. His pulse is regular, but its velocity has increased to 80 beats per minute, and his respiration, though full and free, is decidedly more frequent.

Certainly the condition of this man's system has undergone a great change since our first examination. If he was in health then, where is he now? If it be true that the condition of the healthy tissues can not be changed without incurring disease, surely this man is dangerously ill. But let us wait till we see the end. Presently the man ceases to labor, and gradually settles back to his former condition, and we discover that he is not injured by the changes through which he has passed, but that they have improved his physiological condition by purifying and imparting strength to his system.

A few observations of this character will show us that the tissues of the human system are possessed of a considerable amount of elastic power, which enables them to pass through all the changes required by physiological action without injury to the health; after which we will be able to understand how it is that the condition of a healthy tissue may be changed without producing disease. If we keep in view the elastic property of the tissues—that property which enables them to promptly return to any normal condition from which they have been changed either by natural or artificial means—we shall be prepared to unravel many of the sophisms, concerning the action of agents, by which men mystify and obscure their medical philosophy.

3. Relaxed conditions of tissue are natural, and therefore not incompatible with health. The same may be said of contracted conditions. These alternate with each other in healthy tissues, and yet they are scarcely opposite conditions. Activity and rest are also opposite conditions, and are common to healthy tissues. So far as we know, all physiological functions are performed by means of changes in the condition of tissue. Therefore changes in the condition of tissues do not necessarily produce disease; but there are limits to the elasticity of the tissues, and changes can not be carried beyond those limits with safety.

By observing the changes which nature makes in order to the performance of functions, we are enabled to learn what kind of changes should be made by the use of medicines, for these should be as closely allied to the operations of nature as possible.

When we give capsicum in health the tissues are stimulated to more vigorous action and an increase in the performance of function is the result. After the agent has passed from the system, we discover that no tissue has been injured in any respect by its action. We repeat this experiment a great many times on the same individual, and on many others in various conditions, and find the result uniformly the same. Therefore we say that capsicum is innocent.

When arsenic is given, a great commotion follows. We wait till the smoke of the battle has cleared away, and behold the system either lifeless or injured in a degree corresponding to the amount of the dose given. After a few exhibitions of this kind, we conclude that arsenic has a natural tendency to injure or destroy the vital properties of the tissues, and so prononnce it a poison.

Further illustration is not necessary. Let capsicum be typical of sanative agents, and arsenic of poisons. The principles that govern the action of these agents are typical of their respective classes.

Dr. Stafford was right when he said, in effect, that we should wait for the ultimate results which follow the action of an agent, before we make up our estimate of its character.

The fact that an agent will soften or relax a tissue is no evidence that it is a poison, for nature frequently does this herself, with decided benefit to the system.

The fact that an agent will astringe or consolidate a tissue, is no evidence that it is a poison, for this is one of nature's modes of operation.

The fact that an agent will arouse the tissues to increased action, is not evidence of a poisonous character, for nature does the same. And the fact that an agent will quiet and soothe to rest an excited or overworked tissue, is not an argument against its innocence, for this too is a part of nature's work.

But the fact that an agent, while inducing any of the above conditions, will injure, destroy or permanently change any natural property or quality of the tissnes concerned, is positive evidence of its poisonous character, for these are destructive violations of nature's law.

Now, gentlemen, in view of the foregoing statement of facts, I propose the following general definition of poisons, which I hope you will examine and criticise without fear or mercy:

Poisons are those substances which have a natural tendency to injure or destroy some natural quality or property of the tissues upon which their influence is exerted.

Dr. S. E. Carey—Dr. Davidson has made a distinction in his definition without any real difference. If the state of a tissue is changed or modified, the action of that tissue is also modified, and there is no difference in the ultimate results; so I am inclined to adhere to the old definition.

In answer to Dr. Morehouse, who asks, Is health a stated or fixed condition, and will capsicum increase the frequency or volume of the pulse? first I would answer, that health is a state in which there is a perfect equilibrium of vital action throughout every part of the system, and consequent ability of all the organs of the system or body to perform their proper functions. Health, then, is a state or condition, but not a *fixed* state, for the word fixed, to my mind, implies unalterable, which is not correct as applied to health, for the condition of health may be changed to that of disease almost instantly by a great variety of causes. In the second place, I will say that capsicum will increase the frequency of the pulse, and bring the circulation up to the natural state; or it may reduce the frequency and increase the volume, as in typhoid conditions it often produces that result—a condition much nearer the condition of health; and hence, we conclude that capsicum can not be a poison, for nothing can be a poison which by its direct action changes the tissues from a diseased to a healthy state; or, in other words, assists the vital force to reëstablish its perfect equilibrium throughout the system.

Dr. Davidson—Prof. Carey thinks I have made an unnecessary change in the definition of poisons, but let us see: In the first place, poisons exert their influence directly on the tissues themselves, and not on vital action, which is an abstraction and can not receive the action of any agent. Second, all the injury inflicted by poisons is sustained by the tissues without regard to their functions. The definition which I propose is constructed in accordance with these facts; and though it may not be complete, yet it expresses more of truth than that proposed by Dr. Carey, which encourages the fallacy that vital action is an organized body and may be destroyed by poisons.

Dr. Carey—We may not always be able to dissect or analyze the tissues, that we may see the changes that have been produced, and many times no change can be detected after a most thorough examination, but the effect of agents on the functions is perceptible. Three drops of prussic acid applied to the tongue of a dog will destroy his life in a short time, and yet no perceptible change of tissue is detected; therefore, the definition which I have proposed, will, I think, cover the ground.

Dr. Davidson.—The objections to Dr. Carey's definition are obvious. It assumes that poisons spend their influence on vital action, which is scientifically absurd. The tissues receive the action of poisons, and this action has a tendency to injure or destroy some vital property of those tissues, thus disqualifying them for the performance of their functions in a proper manner. These facts are pretty generally understood, and it is clear that our definition of poisons ought to recognize them.

Dr. Carey.—Dr. Davidson assumes, what some of the best observers of the past have shown to be incorrect, viz: That destruction of function can not come about without destruction of tissue. In cases of death by prussic acid, and in all cases of paralysis, there is no perceptible change in the tissues, and yet the function—the vital action—is either injured or wholly destroyed.

On motion of Dr. Hasty, the courtesies of the convention were extended to several gentlemen present who were not members of the Association, and they were invited to participate in the discussion.

Dr. Davidson—Although, in cases of death from prussic acid and paralysis, we may not be able to discover satisfactory evidences of palpable change in the tissues concerned, after death, yet who will doubt that changes sufficient to destroy life have actually occurred? Will Dr. Carey undertake to say that a tissue or organ in full possession of all its vital properties can be prevented from manifesting those properties by vital action in the performance of its functions? or that the vital properties of a tissue may be injured or destroyed without changing the condition of that tissue? If not, then his definition of poisons is not defensible in its present shape, and should be changed to make it conform to the truths of nature. I do not claim that poisons destroy the tissues. I believe it is generally conceded that they remain, after death, until chemical decomposition accomplishes their destruction; but I undertake to say that poisons may injure or destroy the vital properties of a tissue—those properties upon which life depends, and from which proceeds vital action in the performance of function. And though we may not be able to see the changes of condition wrought by this injury or destruction with our eyes, yet by the aid of common judgment and reason we may surely know that they have occurred.

Dr. Bufkin would favor a definition that would so define poisons that all might be able to distinguish them; but he was not yet satisfied that such a definition had been presented. It is generally admitted that any class of agents has a tendency to do mischief when pushed to an extreme extent. Therefore capsicum and asclepias are poisons when so pushed; and innocent only when used in moderation.

Dr. Carey.—I labored for four months to set Dr. B. right on those points, but it seems that if he ever was right he has retrograded. I have tried to make it plain that our sanative agents have not a natural tendency to produce disease.

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A FEW WORDS ABOUT THIS JOURNAL.

As is stated under the heading "Explanatory," on the cover of this journal, the publication was commenced by us under the auspices and direction of the Indiana State Physio-Medical Convention, which convened in this city in June, 1874. The publication was commenced to supply a want long felt, and often demanded, by the profession and friends of the cause generally. When we entered upon the work of publication it was with strong misgivings as to our competency for the work, and doubt of receiving that support from the profession and friends of our cause so necessary to make the undertaking a success. But many friends gave very positive assurances of liberal support with both purse and pen. Hence we announced in the first issue of this journal that we intended to make it a medium of communication between the friends of Physio-Medicalism and general reform, hoping that thereby all might be mutually edified and enlightened. We have performed our part of the work to the best of our ability, and with as much promptness as the state of health and other hindrances would permit. On the other part we would say, that whilst a few have promptly fulfilled their promises of support, for which they have our thanks, the great majority have but partially performed what we had a right to expect, and several have entirely failed. This has nonplused and discouraged us very much, for we are at a loss to know whether to attribute their failure to willful neglect on their part, or to a failure on our part to meet their expectations. We would like to have this query in our minds settled *soon*, for if we are not meeting the expectation of our friends, we are willing and anxious to withdraw from the work. We have no disposition to continue the publication of this journal, for even another year, if the friends do not consider it worthy of their support. The last P. M. Convention passed a resolution referring to this journal, of which due notice has been given by the Secretary, but which *has not received due attention by a large majority of the members.* We hope that this reminder will be sufficient, and that they will make no further delay. Then we would repeat our request by saying to the friends, send us your contributions, subscriptions, reports of cases, or other articles suitable for this journal, and let us keep the ball rolling, for if it stops it will be very hard to start again, at least we shall never attempt it. COMMITTEE.

CASE OF HIGH TEMPERATURE OF BODY.

THERE is reported in the London medical journals a case which came under the observation of Dr. Teale, in which the heat of a patient's body varied from 110° to 120° Fahrenheit. It appears from the statement made, that the test was very thorough, the thermometer being applied within the mouth, the anus and the arilla, the patient being at the time entirely free from any artificial stimulation of any kind. This seems very extraordinary when we consider that the natural temperature of the body is from 98° to 100°, and that when a patient has high fever the temperature seldom rises above 105°, most generally not higher than 103°. We do not feel free to deny the truth of the above statement, but must confess to having some doubt about its truth. C.

FRACTURE OF THE LOWER EXTREMITIES.

BY G. N. DAVIDSON.

THE popular practice of treating fractures of the lower limbs, especially those of the femur, with very forcible extension and counter-extension, and rigid confinement of the patient on the back, being subject to the following objections:

1st. That the forcible extension irritates the parts in the locality of its application;

2d. That the straightened position of the limb and the confinement soon become very tiresome to the patient;

3d. That from these conditions a general irritation of the nervous system arises, which centres in the injured limb, producing involuntary contraction of its muscles, in opposition to the extension;

4th. That this calls for still more forcible extension, and a pulling match is instituted between the appliances of the surgeon and the muscles of the injured limb;

5th. All this greatly aggravates the suffering and consequent prostration of the patient, and the administration of opiates is resorted to, which constitutes a 6th objection, because it retards the healing process and still further prostrates the patient;

7th. And finally, that the patient generally comes out with a shortened and perhaps distorted limb, continuing to be more or less a cripple to the end of his life;

Therefore I have taken the liberty to disregard the popular management of these cases and endeavor to make my patients comparatively comfortable throughout their confinement, and at the same time bring them out with perfectly-restored limbs. How well I have succeeded the following reports of cases will show:

Case 1.—In 1862, a boy nine years old, and suffering with hip-joint disease (*morbus coxarius*) so that the limb was much shrunken and permanently flexed at both knee and hip, had a heavy door to fall on him and break the femur of the withered limb at the lower third. The fracture was slightly oblique. After applying a bandage, and straight splints about ten inches in length, a long splint was carved from a crooked sassafras limb, and so placed that it curved backward behind the hip at the top, and extended downward six inches below the knee, where an oblique cross-piece was attached to receive an extensor bandage, which was passed around the calf of the leg and fastened to this piece. Counter-extension was made by a bandage passed around the perinnum and over the end of the splint behind the hip. The extension was quite moderate, but sufficient to keep the bone in proper position. The splint was small and light, and fitted closely. The patient was allowed to change his position at will. He soon became quite cheerful, and recovered rapidly without any medication.

Case 2.—In 1873, John Blazer, aged sixty-three years, had his leg broken by a hog which ran between his legs and threw him down. Both bones were broken transversely just above the ankle. I was from home at the time, and Dr. B. was called; he took Dr. C. with him. They adjusted the bones and applied a couple of splints, with cavities to fit the malleoluses (projecting bones of the ankle). But Mr. Blazer was not satisfied, and desired me to take charge of the case. This offended the Allopathic gentlemen, and Dr. B. demanded his splints, which were replaced with others having holes to admit the malleoluses. In a few days a box, made of light material and shaped so as to support the foot in a proper and easy position, was packed with cotton and the foot and leg placed in it. Mr. B. was now allowed to change position at pleasure, and sit in a rocking-chair when tired of the bed. By the twelfth day after the injury he walked about on crutches, and drove to town in his buggy, a distance of three and a half miles, on the fifteenth. In less than thirty days he laid the crutches by and walked with the help of a cane, and was frequently seen driving his buggy about the country.

The medication in this case consisted of an infusion of ginger, esclepias and cyppripedeum, of which he drank about half a pint daily for ten days; and a liniment composed of tincture of capsicum, oil of sassafras, and a small portion of lobelia. This was applied to the fracture two or three times per day. Mr. Blazer suffered but little pain after the first day of confinement, and his general health was fair from first to last.

The points worthy of note in this case are, the great amount of liberty allowed the patient, and the very rapid and perfect recovery that followed. However, it must be remembered that the bones were kept in proper position all the time. The Anderson doctors said "his leg was not broken; men did not recover from fractures so soon." The Pendleton gentlemen were silent on the subject; they had committed themselves at the start and had nothing more to say.

Case 3.—Joseph, a five year old son of Henry Allspaw, fell from a heavily loaded wagon that was passing along the side of a hill. The hind wheel, having a tire five inches in width, passed over his thigh in an oblique direction a little above the middle, breaking the femur at each edge of the tire, and badly crushing the upper end of the middle fragment. Here was a case that looked very serious indeed, but I determined to make the patient as nearly comfortable as possible. The limb from the toe to the body was encased in a roller bandage. Then short splints were applied about the fractured portion of the thigh. Next a shoe attached to a long splint. The little fellow soon became comparatively comfortable, suffering but very little pain after the first twenty-four hours, and exhibiting a remarkable amount of cheerfulness. His appetite continued fair, and his general health suffered but little, no medication being required, except one small cathartic dose. The lower fracture was firmly united by the 12th day, but the upper fracture, where the bone was crushed, was not united till about the 20th day. The long splint was retained ten days longer, after which the patient was liberated from all kinds of restraint, but he refused to leave the bed for several days longer. The recovery in this case was complete. I examined the limb critically three months after the injury, and found it precisely a mate for the opposite limb in every respect, there being no difference in length, size or function.

NOTE.—In Case No. 3, the limb was stripped and thoroughly washed on the 12th day after the injury, after which the roller bandage was not used. The washing was repeated six days after.

A CASE OF INJURY FROM A FALL.

THE following account of a case of injury from a fall was reported sometime ago, but it has lost none of its interest by age, and so we report it for the benefit of those who may meet with cases having a like train of symptoms:

A young man was riding in company with some others on a very dark night, when his horse ran on a steep bank, slipped and fell, throwing his rider. Soon after the horse got up, one of the young man's comrades called to him, but received no answer. Fearing that he might be seriously hurt, his friend started after the balance of the company, who were ahead, and called to them to come back to his assistance. On their return they met him jabbering to himself, apparently having a very confused idea of what had happened. He complained of some injury about the back, but from what they could learn he was not seriously hurt. He walked about half a mile to his home, by which time he seemed much fatigued and indisposed to talk, so much so that he spoke but two or three words whilst his friends were undressing him. After he got to bed he took half a teacupful of composition tea, and soon fell into a sound sleep, as was supposed by the friends. After about three hours an attempt was made to arouse him, when it was discovered that he was unconscious, and unable to utter a syllable.

I saw him about six hours after this, and found him not only unconscious and unable to speak, but unable even to move a limb or a finger. He appeared to breathe with great difficulty, the breathing being frequently interrupted with sighing, or rather sobbing. The pulse was accelerated, with occasional intermissions; the extremities were inclined to coldness; surface rather moist. Upon a careful examination, there were no marks of injury to be seen upon his person. Owing to the extreme darkness of the night on which he fell, I could learn nothing definite about the manner of his fall, or the location of the injury; but the symptoms led me to the conclusion that the spine had been injured, and medication was commenced at once as indicated by this diagnosis. At first a free use of the best stimulating liniment was made along the course of the upper three-fourths of the spine, and a couple of teaspoonfuls of third preparation were given; it was with the greatest difficulty, however, that he swallowed it, and for two or three hours afterward he seemed entirely unable to control the phlegm which had collected in his throat, and which at times seemed to threaten strangulation. In addition to the liniment and third preparation, I gave an injection at intervals of an hour, composed of pulverized slippery elm one part, lobelia herb and seed one-fourth part, and cayenne one-eighth part. A heaping teaspoonful of this powder was prepared in six ounces of hot water, and given.

About eight hours after commencing the use of enemas, he became considerably relieved, and soon began to move his limbs slightly, and two or three hours more, his body. In a few hours more, (and about thirty-six hours after he lost his speech), he spoke a word or two, but evidently without consciousness or even opening his eyes. By this time he was able to swallow teas without much difficulty, and was then put upon a tea of white root, lady slipper and ginger, about equal parts of each, and in about two hours more he opened his eyes for the first time, and talked freely, but still without rationality. After a few hours more he had lucid intervals, and finally in about forty-eight hours from the time he commenced taking medicine, his mind became free, and he was able to walk about. In one week from the time he received the injury, he was riding around on horseback, apparently about well; and in some two weeks from the receipt of the injury he returned to his regiment.

One peculiar feature about his case was, that as soon as he was able to speak, he complained of his back and head, saying he had 'a bad old back, a big head,' etc., repeating for some hours. After consciousness was restored, he had no pain, nor soreness of consequence, but complained considerably of weakness of the back. He had no recollection of the circumstance or manner of his fall by which the injury was received; nor could he call to recollection the presence of persons who had visited him some hours after he resumed his speech.

The symptoms and result of this case were so novel as to cause some persons who heard of the case to conclude that the symptoms were feigned, they supposing it impossible that he should recover so soon and so completely after such alarming symptoms. The result, however, only evinces the great power of sanative remedies in restoring the functions of diseased organs, or rather in aiding nature to free the system of embarrassments or obstructions of whatever kind or character. C.

THE WORLD STILL MOVES.

WHEN Galileo was brought before the ecclesiastical authorities and compelled to renounce, upon his knees, the then heretical doctrine that the earth was round instead of flat, as was then generally supposed, and that instead of standing still it had both a diurnal and annual motion, we are told that as he arose from his knees he whispered to one standing by, "And yet the world still moves."

As it was said by Galileo of the physical world, so it may be said of the medical world. When Samuel Thomson proclaimed to the world his doctrine of the unity of disease, he was denounced as was Galileo; and though he was not compelled to renounce his belief upon his knees, as was that old philosopher, yet he was generally denounced as an ignoramus, a charlatan, and various opprobrious epithets were heaped upon him and those who adopted his theory and practice of medicine. But in the course of time a Dr. Knapp, of some celebrity in the old school of medicine, announced to the world that typhoid fever and cholera were essentially the same disease, having different symptoms because of different surroundings of the diseased, and the difference in temperament, etc. Somewhat similar discoveries have been made by "lesser lights" of the old school—Allopathic profession; but it remained for Dr. Hulings Jackson, a London celebrity, to make another step in the direction taken by Thomson seventy-five years ago. The London *Lancet* says Dr. Johnson "has been struck by the intimate relation there seems to be between chorea (St. Vitus's dance), migraine, and rheumatism—a relation which he believes was pointed out by the late Dr. Antsie."

The old proverb, "It seldom rains but it pours," now seems to be verified by the fact that our own country furnishes a "nosological iconoclast," in the person of H. W. Taylor, M. D., who tells us in the November issue of the *Medical Review*: "I propose to send the whole remittent business to Tophet in a bundle. Because I am convinced, after ten years' residence and observation in a country supposed to be peculiarly the habitat of remittent fever, that no such disease as remittent fever ever existed or had an entity as a distinct lesion. What many practitioners are in the habit of diagnosing as remittent fever, bilious fever, etc., is nothing more nor less than typhoid fever, made inconceivably milder in all its aspects by the presence and coexistence of intermittent fever. * * Typhoid fever is essentially a remittent, and becomes in all cases an intermittent as to the temperature. The fever cycles may be seven or fourteen days each, rarely eighteen or twenty-one. * * Typhoid fever is a disease of the temperate zone; intermittent fever of the tropical. Typhoid prevails in the elevated regions; intermittent in the low lands. Meeting in each other's territory, each is vastly modified by the other, and we may have all grades, forms and courses of fever, from the described typhoid, remittent, intermittent, and undescribed anomalous fevers that know no written law. Thus I have observed within the last two months thirty cases of fever the like of which has not been written. Perhaps a slight rigor, perhaps no rigor at all; two, three, five or seven days with a morning temperature of 101°, evening 102°; tongue slightly coated, the tip always fiery red; the appetite usually fair; no gastric or intestinal disturbance, and convalescence without intermission or remission, save the usual morning and evening oscillation that belongs to all pathological as well as physiological processes." So it will be seen the world verily does move! C.

RECOLLECTIONS OF MEDICAL PRACTICE.

BY AN ORIGINAL PHYSICIAN—DR. JOSEPH GRAY.

No. 5.—Croup.

I WAS called one night to a child thought to be dying. As I approached the house I heard it breathing at some distance with that peculiar metallic ring indicative of croup. But my motto being always, with young or old, "While there 's life there 's hope," I went vigorously to work, not, however, with headlong precipitation, since another motto of mine is to begin to apply force with caution, because power can be increased if found necessary; a remedial agent can be repeated if need be much more readily than the effect of an overdose can be obviated. However, this case required expedition, and I got the child into a warm atmosphere quick as possible, and administered an emetic, which immediately relieved the child somewhat and gave some hope. While it was thus relieved, however, we were diligent. Soon the choking and hard breathing returned. As it was found that a little ipecac and bathing the feet in warm water and applying onion draughts to them were not sufficient to keep the enemy at bay, another emetic was administered, and relief—partial relief—again obtained. Again there was a grapple and a struggle between life and death. Friends and neighbors thought the child would die—*must* die; but I remarked that with each emetic there was a little more rallying of the vital forces, and at each removal of phlegm and obstructing matter there was less to contend with. Finally, to be brief, I staid by the child three nights and three days, giving an emetic as often as was absolutely necessary to prevent its choking to death, and the result was, life triumphed. Without faith and hope and persistent effort, the child might have died at each period, and I was long in doubt about success, but never relaxed the use of restorative means, such as oiling the palms of the hands and the throat, especially at the hollow place at the base of the neck, near the trachea or windpipe. And rest, absolute rest, when the child was sufficiently at ease to rest, was never interrupted under any pretense whatever, though no sedative was administered, no tampering with the vital forces; but when nature indicated rest it was not violated, so when the enemy returned a little strength had accrued wherewith to resist its encroachments. I have seldom, in all my practice, found it necessary or useful, or in any way advisable, when a patient was taking rest in natural sleep at night, to awaken him to take any kind of medicine whatever, feeling that nature's recuperative power, active in genial sleep, was superior to any drug of mine or any other physician's.

A FATAL MISTAKE, AND WHAT MADAM FASHION SAYS ABOUT IT.

THE newspapers have recently given an account of a lady in Indiana who gave her two little children, by mistake, strychnine for quinine, to prevent chills, by which they were both killed, and on account of which the mother is almost distracted with grief. Of course all good people feel great sympathy for the poor mother, because of her loss; but then, why should she go crazy about it? Does she not know that her children died fashionably, and should that not console her in her bereavement? Of course she did not give the poison intentionally, with a view of killing her children—then why grieve about it? The doctors who use poisons often kill their patients, sometimes the members of their own families, but they don't go crazy nor complain—they console themselves with the reflection that the killing was done according to fashion, and so that ends the trouble.

I am aware that there are a few—and fortunately but few—who call themselves Physio-Medicals, Hydropaths, or something else—old fogies, clogs to the wheels of progress—who would say that the woman should be blamed for keeping poisons and medicines together, by which such accidents are liable to take place; but then, do not all fashionale doctors keep their poisons and medicines together? I am aware that there are some who have such a slight appreciation of fashionable propriety as to deny that poisons are fit for medicines, or that an agent which will kill people who are in health, is fit to be given to cure them when they are sick. Such logic as that may suit old women, or some people who live in the backwoods, but it will not suit this age, enlightened by fashion. Such notions were better suited for the Bible ages, when the people were healed with hyssop—"when the leaves of the trees were for the healing of the nations"; but such plain, simple notions will not pass current in this day of enlightenment, when almost everybody wants to live fashionably, and die fashionably, and even be buried fashionably.

As further proof of what I say, I would refer to good old Dr. Smith (who dresses in the hight of fashion), who says the strongest poisons are the best medicines; and of course he knows, because he has had a large practice and lost more patients than any other doctor. Then there is Dr. Jones, who always dresses like a dancing master, who said but the other day, if his arsenic, strychnine, veratum and opium were taken from him, he did not know how he could practice medicine with satisfaction. Then there is young Dr. Brown, one of the most popular young gentlemen I ever knew; and why should he not be, for he is the very pink of fashion, and there is not a young lady of the town who is not ready to die for him—now he says he believes there is no better medicine than rattlesnake's poison. He says he sometimes kills his patients with it, but then he does not know but that they might have died with the disease if not the poison; and then, as the friends of the deceased are satisfied, of course he should be, especially when they pay him for giving poisons, so *cheerfully*.

And so I might go on and give hundreds of instances to prove that the giving of poisons for medicines is approved of by the most fashionable people of the country, and is therefore right; and so the poor woman referred to has everything to comfort her in the loss of her children: the example of the most fashionable doctors; the practice of the most fashionable people; and then above all and more than all, here comes in that good old maxim, which says, "better be out of the world than out of the fashion," and so that settles it without any further discussion. S.

* * *

USES OF THE PANCREAS.

THE particular function of the pancreas in the animal economy is not very well understood, and our researches in physiological science have shed but little light on the question for the last quarter or half a century. Nor has what is called pathological science done much, if anything more than has physiology. Who hears anything about the disease of the pancreas? Who knows anything about symptoms of disease of that organ? And yet post mortem examinations occasionally, we may say often, reveal a diseased condition of that organ where it was not suspected. But more than that, the medical journals are now giving reports of a post mortem made upon the body of M. de Morny, of Paris, in which no trace of the pancreas was to be found. Further than that, so far as we are informed, such a state of things was not suspected. Is it not time that something more should be known of the functions of the pancreas?

A SHOCK TO FAITH.

God only knows how much sin parents are guilty of, and how much of the sins of children lies at the door of parents, because of the stories they tell their children almost every day of their lives—innocent stories they are called, but more properly lies; white lies, funny lies, innocent lies they are called, but they are lies, nevertheless; and though they are not told with "malice aforethought," they are damaging, we might say *damning*, in their tendency to both body and soul. Hundreds of parents tell their children ghost stories, witch stories, stories about signs, stories about dreams, about lucky days, about unlucky days, etc.; all of which they know to be untrue, and all of which is wicked, for they fill the mind with superstitious and wicked notions, which will cling to them in all after-life. And worse than all that, when the children arrive at a period in life when they learn that father or mother has told them untruths—lies—their confidence is shaken; and as they can not distinguish between the truths and untruths of their parents, they become skeptical in their minds and lose faith in what their parents may say about either God or man. What a pity that parents, especially Christian parents, can not be made to fully realize this, and learn to be truthful to their own children especially, if not to all others. The Hartford *Times* gives a case in point, and yet we fear that many mothers have read it and have only thought of it as a *funny* little story of a *funny* little girl, without reflecting upon the depth of its significance, or how they, too, may be tearing up the foundation-stones of faith which God has laid in the minds and hearts of their children. Then let no father or mother wonder if their children grow to be skeptics or infidels if they do not set them proper examples: C.

"A lady, thinking it time for her little girl to put away childish things, informed her that Santa Claus was a 'made-up' person—that there was no such person at all. Upon which the child, with becoming solemnity, asked: 'Mamma, have you been telling me lies about Jesus Christ, too?' "

A FISHHOOK TRAVELS FROM A BOY'S RIGHT HAND TO HIS LEFT SHOULDER.

THE New Hampshire *Enquirer* gives an account of a boy, at the age of thirteen years, who was fishing, and accidently caught the hook in the forefinger of his right hand near the root of the nail, drawing it into the bend of the hook. A doctor was called who very imprudently gave the hook a sudden twist by which he broke it, leaving the point and barb in the finger, promising a speedy recovery from the wound, which he dressed in the usual manner. The wound soon healed, but the finger and arm troubled him at intervals for a long time, and after a year or two his general health failed so far as to cause considerable alarm, he being subject to frequent alarming fainting fits and other spasmodic affections. This condition continued for four or five years, when the boy's health became quite restored. About seven years after the accident, the young man while dressing himself tore a pimple from his left shoulder, and on examining it he drew from the flesh the point of the hook which seven years before commenced its travels in the forefinger of the opposite side of the body.

Several cases have been reported of needles and other instruments of like shape traversing the body and limbs in various directions, occupying many months or years in their movements, but we do not remember of seeing any account before of a substance like the one above described traversing any part of the body to such a great extent as here detailed.

C.

DON'T, GIRLS.

Don't think that yards and yards of ribbons, ruffles and lace will add one particle to your value. Don't make a walking milliner's shop or a jeweler's store of yourselves, covering all that is of true merit within you with that which will only attract the shallow-brained. Don't think sensible people are to be deceived with that vain show; they look for beauty of heart and mind. Don't flatter yourselves that it is smart to affect ignorance of manual labor, or to be ignorant of it. Don't give the subject of matrimony a thought while you are in your teens, except to qualify yourself for the responsible position it places you in; you need all of that time of life to fit yourselves for it. You need to study books, the laws of life and health; to be experienced in the culinary art, as perhaps the happiness and health of hundreds are depending on your knowledge of this. Don't give your time and talents to the world, or to seeking the things of time and sense that perish with their using. God has created you for a nobler purpose, and made you accountable for what he has given you. Don't sell your birthright for a mess of pottage.

THE LAW OF THE RAIL.

Some one who has taken the trouble to post himself on the laws governing railroad passenger travel, says that extra charges for failure to buy tickets are universally sustained by the courts, but there must be a full opportunity to buy afforded by the ticket seller. Passengers must show tickets when asked for. As to "stopping off," there is only one decision, which is that a passenger can not "stop off" and resume his journey without the previous assent of the company. As to the obligation of the road to furnish a seat to a passenger a decision says: "A passenger who exhibits his ticket need not surrender it until he has been furnished with a seat." A railroad is not liable for things stolen out of a passenger's seat, there being no previous delivery to the company's servants; for the same reason the company is not liable for baggage in the passenger's own care. Passengers who neglect to look after their own baggage on arrival at their destination, can not recover for it if it is lost without fault of the carrier. Baggage left at station houses for the passenger's convenience, after it has reached its destination, comes under a new class of rights and duties, the baggage master assuming the position of a "gratuitous bailee," who only becomes liable in cases of gross negligence. The obligation of the railroad as carrier ceases when it has delivered to its owner at the place of destination, or when he has had reasonable opportunity of receiving and removing it. It will interest sportsmen to know that they may recover for the value of dogs when they entrust them to baggage masters for hire, because of their exclusion from the passenger cars.

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Physio-Medical Journal
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"WHAT SHALL WE EAT?"

BY D. B. WIGGINS, M. D.

MANKIND are so constituted that it would be a very difficult task for any one to lay down precise rules as to what we shall eat or drink. There are certain things that are said to be "one man's meat and another's poison." This is not strictly true, but simply that some things agree with one person and do not agree with another. This we do know, that, as a general rule, such things as boiled cabbage and vinegar, lettuce, pickles and cucumbers are not good for food, and if the digestive organs, by dint of perseverance, are able to digest them, the system only receives three or four per cent. nourishment; when rice, raw eggs, fresh fish, peas, beans, and many other things will digest in one-fourth of the time, and give to the system from seventy to eighty per cent. nutriment. The heavy tax on the digestive organs, to digest those innutricious articles, must in time produce much harm, and lay the foundation for dyspepsia and all of its results.

We should eat simple, plain, natural food, and the more perfectly the man lives up to this rule the more perfect will be his constitution, the more healthy and vigorous will be his body, the more perfect his senses, the more active his intellectual and moral faculties. By simple food I do not mean that man should eat grass like the horse and ox, nor should he confine himself to a single article of food during his life; but that which is not compounded and complicated by culinary process.

By plain food we mean that which is not dressed with pungent stimulants, seasonings, or condiments, and by natural food we mean that which nature has designed for man as are best adapted to his condition, anatomically and physiologically.

Nature has decided that no animal can long retain its health if fed on highly concentrated food alone, and a great amount of mischief has been done from utter ignorance of the structure and laws of the human economy; and at no time is it more important to attend to the intuitions of nature in the regulation of diet, as to time, quality and quantity, than during the earliest part of childhood. At this time neglect will be more iniquitous than at any other time of life. We may be surprised at first at the number of children that die before they are two years old; but when we consider the ignorance of mothers and nurses, to whose care the young are entrusted, we are not at all surprised, but wonder that so many survive, or that they do not all die.

In the first place, perhaps not one mother in a hundred has ever taken one thought or one moment of time to inquire into the management of young children before becoming a mother, thereby laying themselves liable to be governed by the hurtful and superstitious notions that still linger about the nursery.

I have no doubt that at least one-half of the deaths during the first two years of childhood may be attributed to mismanagement and errors in diet.

From pure ignorance the mother construes every movement the child makes to its being hungry, and whenever it cries gives it more food, when perhaps it is not ten minutes since it was fed, and very likely is crying from colic pains, produced from its already having taken too much food. Nothing can be more injurious than this custom. It soon overloads and oppresses the stomach and excites griping and bowel complaint, cholera infantum, restlessness, fever, etc., and often produces fatal effects on the brain. All these lead to the ruinons practice of giving those soothing and quieting drops containing more or less opium, and in time produce very injurious effects on the brain and nervous system.

It is astonishing what a universal panacea is made of eating, and even by intelligent parents, for all the little troubles that may afflict the young. No matter how trivial the circumstance may be, if it cries it must have a sweet cake, candy, or nice peppermint drops, or some other equally pleasant antidote.

Because the child opens its mouth when it cries, and because the mouth leads to the stomach, we should not jump at the conclusion that the child is to be kept well and in good humor by a continual stuffing. If we force into its stomach one-half pint of food, when it can not properly contain more than one-half of that quantity, and that every hour during the day, we must expect that a quarter of that food will remain undigested, and produce many injurious results. To confound the crying from pain and that from hunger is a very serious matter to the child. To give it food when it is crying from pain produced by the undigested food already in its stomach, only aggravates and increases the suffering, and, to cap the climax, when the infant refuses to swallow more food, and its stomach is full and running over, and it still cries, then the mother or nurse commences to jolt and toss it in her arms, as if on purpose to shake down its food to make room for more.

This process of stuffing is not wholly confined to children, but the prevalence of over-eating is general among adults, especially among the sedentary classes, making itself manifest in the frequent attacks of indigestion, dyspepsia, and heart disease. This is their torment and they exhibit deep traces of it in their lean forms and haggard countenances. How can this be otherwise while children and youth are regularly taught, hired, bribed, or tempted to over-eat themselves from their birth? If you want proof of this, go to our dining halls, nurseries, fruit and confectionery shops and pleasure gardens; yes, even to our sick rooms. These places contain all sorts of eatables crowded together to tempt the palate, and mankind often eat until they have neither desire or room for more. Impelled by the love of variety, he not only exerts his ingenuity to the utmost to give new forms to his food, by means of cookery, but ransacks every quarter of the habitable globe, and lays earth, sea and air under contribution for the supply of his table and the gratification of his palate.

Having ascertained what we should eat, the next thing to consider is how we should eat our food. The first and important step in the complicated process of digestion is to take time to eat, to thoroughly chew the food, to mix it with the saliva until it becomes of a uniform pulpy consistence, fit for being easily swallowed and acted upon by the gastric juice on its arrival in the stomach.

The apparatus for mastication varies according to the kind of food the animal feeds upon. In some animals that live on gelatinous food no teeth are required.

In granivorous or grain-eating birds the grinding process is not carried on in the mouth, but in the gizzard, when the food mixed with gravel is easily softened and broken down by the strong muscles of that organ.

Man, being omnivorous, occupying an intermediate link between other animals, is not obliged to ruminate like the cow, nor can he swallow his food whole like birds of prey. Hasty mastication is very injurious, because it prevents the food from being thoroughly mixed with the saliva, which is absolutely necessary before the further process of digestion can be carried on.

Too close application of the mind in thinking, figuring, business, reading, etc., directly after eating, is highly injurious. This is the law of digestion throughout the whole animal creation—a marked aversion to active exercise directly after taking a full meal; but many men, eager in the pursuit of gain, often engage in active exercise just before and immediately after meals, and in return they receive their reward for disregarding the laws of nature, in suffering from indigestion and the mischief they produce in the human system. It is highly injurious to feed a horse directly after fatiguing exercise; an interval of repose should always be allowed before feeding. Many a valuable horse has been killed by disregarding this rule. What is true of a horse is also true of mankind; it is decidedly injurious to take food into the stomach when the system is in a tired condition. The stomach takes on the corresponding weakness, and is not in a proper condition to digest the meal.

Nowhere does man hurry down his food and hasten off to business as in this country, and nowhere do we find as many cases of dyspepsia and as much derangement of the stomach and liver; and the evil seems to be increasing instead of abating.

Habit may be said to be at the bottom of all the trouble that exists with nature and her laws, as pertains to the human organism.

It is a lamentable fact that at least nine-tenths of the human family now upon the face of the globe, savages and civilized, are daily in the habit of using and taking things.

into their systems that greatly impair the physiological condition of their systems.

That foul and loathsome weed, tobacco, has found its way to the utmost extremities of the four quarters of the globe, and is freely used by all classes of society. In this, our own boasted land of freedom, there are millions of slaves to this one habit; fifty millions of dollars are expended annually for tobacco, cigars and snuff more than for flour—two hundred and fifty millions of the former, to two hundred millions of the latter. What an expense for one habit that saps at the very foundation of our constitutions! Twenty cigars per head for every man, woman and child, are made annually in the United States.

Smoking and chewing tobacco excite the salivary glands and produce a free discharge of the same, which should be retained to mix with the food. The chewer and smoker at meal time is obliged to take more or less liquid to get food down; the saliva has gone in the form of tobacco spittle, and the result is, the process of digestion is very materially deranged.

Tea, coffee, liquor and opium are scarcely less universally used, and all belong to the great family of deleterious articles used by mankind, which are entirely useless and decidedly injurious to his physical welfare.

When the stomach is loaded the whole vital energies seem to be concentrated to that organ to enable it to digest its contents, and every physician knows the result of deviating from this rule. He also knows full well that it is utterly impossible for him to apply his remedies successfully unless a proper respect is paid to the condition of the stomach. In this relation to the true character and causes of disease the most lamentable ignorance prevails among mankind. They take very little thought on this subject, and seem to believe that nothing which they can do can prevent disease or modify the violence of its attack. They have been educated to believe that it is the effect of chance, or fate, or a special act of Providence, and that it is of but little use for them to be governed by any particular rules of diet, or that any particular diet will be of any avail in preserving health or preventing disease. The question with them is not how they came by their sickness, or what laws of life and health they have transgressed. They are only concerned as to how they can obtain the most speedy relief from their suffering.

Having decided what and how we should eat, it now becomes necessary for us to inquire, when we should eat. It is evident to every one—if not it should be—that the stomach, like many other organs of the body, needs rest. The "little and often" quoted theory will sooner or later produce bad results from this fact–a certain amount of food will remain undigested if this idea is persevered in; for then fermentation of this undigested food will take place, and produce those disagreeable feelings that follow indigestion.

We should eat but three times a day—never later than six o'clock at night. About as good a rule as any, taking the requirements of nature into consideration, is to take breakfast at six A. M., dinner at twelve M., and tea at six P. M. These are undoubtedly the best hours to eat, if we take three meals a day, This would be better if our habits are active, than to take two meals a day, eight hours apart. If we can't arrange the three meals without hurrying from business to meals and from meals to business, it is better to take but two meals a day and take time for them. The evils which result and the sufferings produced by eating too often are inconceivable. Most physicians will bear me out in saying that this is one of the greatest sources of affliction to civilized man, and that physicians have more trouble with the eating and drinking propensities of their patients than all other things put together.

How often have patients told me that their former physician was such a nice man, he would let them eat all of everything they wanted, and at any time. I am quite sure a physician that would give such advice would fail to cure the most simple forms of disease. The habit of taking food into the stomach before the former food taken is digested, worries and debilitates the whole system, producing distressing symptoms and disease of every type and character.

Many people are in the habit of eating hearty supplies just before they retire to rest, and by the power of their constitutions enjoy a tolerable share of health and attain a good age; but we also know that ninety-nine out of a hundred that indulge in over-eating, smoking and chewing tobacco, drinking liquor and strong tea and coffee, and take poisons as medicines when they are sick, are broken down and afflicted with chronic disease before they reach the age of fifty, if they are fortunate enough to live that long; and at the present mode of living, in the next two or three generations, a person will be considered old at fifty.

Errors in diet are the cause of unsoundness of sleep and of dreaming in all of its varieties, and it should be understood that dreaming is always to be considered as unfavorable to the welfare of the human system, as it shows some disturbance in the system that causes unsoundness of sleep. The causes by which the soundness of sleep is impaired are numerous and varied. Everything that irritates the stomach and bowels and excites the nervous system, all alcoholic and narcotic substances, highly seasoned food, imperfect mastication, eating late at night, may be considered some of the most important causes.

Over-feeding young infants or children impairs their sleep and makes them restless and irritable. The habit of stuffing them just before going to sleep, and of nursing them two or three times during the night is one of the prominent causes of sickness among children. As a general rule the old as well as young should avoid sleeping immediately after a meal in the daytime, and that no food should be taken nearer than three or four hours before retiring to rest.

Gentle and pleasant exercise, cheerfulness and cheerful amusements are far better after a full meal than sleeping or sluggish rest. The spirit of cheerfulness should be encouraged, especially in our youth, if we would wish to have the benefit of it in our old age. The cheerful man enjoys his meals, and his digestion goes on well when he is full of fun and mirth. "Laughter," said a distinguished German professor, "is one of the greatest helps to digestion with which I am acquainted, and the custom prevalent among our forefathers of exciting it at table by jesters and buffoons, was founded on true medical principles. In a word, endeavor to have cheerfulness and merriment at your meals. What nourishment one received amid mirth and jollity will be sure to be of the right kind. Some people are constantly adding tears to the waves that threaten to engulf them; their sun is constantly going down, and their days are always dark and cloudy, and black is the color of Heaven, and the more they look like it the holier they are. This looking on the dark side of everything soon deranges the whole system. The state of the mind exerts a powerful influence not only on the digestive organs, but on the whole process of mutation, and greatly modifies the quantity of food necessary to be eaten. It may be noticed in the animal to be fatted as well as in man; a cross, surly animal is much harder to fatten than the good-natured. So in man; if the mind be gay and joyous, the appetite will be keen, digestion will be active and nutrition complete. On the other hand, if the mind be harrassed by care and anxiety, or by grief, envy, jealousy, or other troubles, a sharp, healthy appetite will be scarcely known, and digestion and nutrition will be equally impaired, and the system take on that wan and care-worn appearance; while the good-natured, cheerful man is almost always fat—hence the saying, a fat man is almost always a good-natured man, while a lean man or woman is more or less uneasy, fretful and discontented. Shakespeare undoubtedly had this principle in view when he made Cæsar exclaim:

> "Let me have men about me that are fat,
> Sleek-headed men, and such as sleep o' nights.
> Yond Cassius has a lean and hungry look;
> He thinks too much: such men are dangerous.
>
> ANTHONY.—Fear him not, Cæsar, he's not dangerous;
> He is a noble Roman, and well given.
>
> CÆSAR—Would he were fatter; but I fear him not;
> Yet if my name were liable to fear,
> I do not know the man I should avoid
> So soon as that spare Cassius. He reads much,
> He is a great observer, and he looks
> Quite through the deeds of men; he loves no plays
> As thou dost, Anthony; he hears no music;
> Seldom he smiles, and smiles in such a sort,
> As if he mocked himself and scorned his spirit,
> That could be moved to smile at anything.
> Such men as he be never at heart's ease
> While they behold a greater than themselves,
> And therefore are they very dangerous."

Buffalo, New York.

PRACTICE AGAINST THEORY.

BY PROF. A. CURTIS, M. D.

DR. CURTIS—" 'You say 'Allopathy is not true nor scientific; that its practice always tends to make disease, but never to cure it; that the Physio-Medical system is true, and tends always to cure—never to kill.' Why is it, then, that we sometimes see a patient cured by Allopathic physician after a Physio-Medicalist has failed to cure him?"—*Querist.*

Dr. Curtis—I do say as above, and I prove it by the testimony of the most talented learned professors of Allopathy that ever wrote on the subject. See my Criticisms, Nos. 5, 7, 8, 9, etc. Then read Nos. 42, 43, etc. The cure of disease can not be effected by poisons—"that is alone the work of Nature."—*Paine*, No. 47.

These principles are true, and the practice founded on them is what it pretends to be, scientific. We never see a patient cured by Allopathy, whether treated before by the true practice or not. The reason why it sometimes appears otherwise is, the physicians in both cases have practiced contrary to their principles. The former may have given tonics, astringents and stimulants, where he should have given relaxants, nervines, emolients, etc., and the latter may have given Physio-Medical agents, and miscalled the practice Allopathy; or he may have given "virulent poisons," and thus provoked the efforts of nature to the expulsion of both the disease and the remedy; in which case, as in every other that is cured at all, "the cure" is "alone by the work of nature."—[Crit. 47.] The remedy, if good and properly applied, may aid nature by removing from her domain obstacles to her free action; if bad, or good and improperly applied, may provoke her to an effort strong enough to remove both the disease and the remedy.

When I was young some naughty boys caught a tortoise from the mud and carried him up to the dry table land, on which they offered him food and tried various other means to make him run. He still kept his head and his feet under the roof of his shell. They finally placed a coal of fire on his back, and he moved without paying particular attention to his course. They succeeded in producing the desired result; but neither was a scientific practice. The cure "was the work of nature" in her efforts to defend herself from suffering. Had they placed him on the bank of a pond which he could see, he would have gratified them by moving for his favorite element, and the treatment would have been Physio-Medical — scientific — the cure natural.

The comparative value of different medical practices can not be decided by the results in a few isolated cases. It must be determined by the results in a large number of cases, under a uniform treatment and the same circumstances. If you look over the whole field of such practices for fifty years past, the results of the Allopathic practice are correctly described in Nos. 16, 18, 20 and 27 of the Criticisms, while by the examination of my Discussions you will find that the Physio-Medical is more famous for cures, in the hands of experienced practitioners, of cases regarded by eminent Allopathic physicians as incurable, than for the loss of all of any kind and all kinds of cases that they fail to cure. It is not rare that a Physio-Medicalist who adheres strictly to his principles cures a thousand cases without a failure. But who is the Allopathist that ever did this? [See my Discussions, pages 121 to 128.]

You ask why Allopathic colleges are extensively patronized, and Physio-Medical colleges have but small classes. The answer is, they have secured by their wealth and organizations, and by false pretensions to the possession of superior knowledge and skill, a popularity which far overshadows all the exhibitions of true reformers. Their system also attracts students by its power with little labor to prolong disease and make the practice profitable; while the Physio-Medical, by much labor, makes short work of disease, and secures but a meager compensation to him who enters the profession. Hence its proper exercise is in the hands of those who need its services. It is peculiarly a domestic practice.

Another reason why some Allopathists so nearly equal for success some Physio-Medicalists, is that the former are acquiring the habit of using Physio-Medical remedies, while the latter are aping the former in the specious folly of multiplying names to disease, placing great stress upon the diagnosis, and devising different plans, and using different agents for the cure of affections essentially the same! The supposed necessity for this specific diagnosis aud treatment so confuses ordinary minds as to deprive them of the power to see at a glance the true nature and indications of disease, and to apply to it at once the appropriate remedies. By striving to profit in practice by "all that is taught in Allopathic colleges," young men generally very much reduce the time necessary to learn what they should know and to practice the simple and efficient art which Nature teaches to less instructed but unsophisticated intellects. As a specimen of the effect on the mind of a student of "a thorough diagnosis," see my Discussions, page 142.

When the testimony of the learned and experienced who have used an article the most extensively, and had the best opportunities, as in large hospitals, to witness its effects, declare that its natural tendency is pernicious and it will produce injurious destructive effects, unless used with great caution and judgment, the good effects which, in rare cases follow its administration should be ascribed to some other cause than its action, which cause is the power of the system to protect itself against the action of the causes of disease, whether known, unknown or prescribed. That nature cures disease in spite of a "coinciding remedy" (See B. M. Recorder, vol. xxi, No. 12), is no justification of the use of such a remedy in any case. Nor is there any need of such. Let the same trial be made to test the value of innocent and sanative medicines that have been made with "the most virulent poisons" (Crit. No 47), and medical practice will soon be rid of all its "false facts" and its "false theories" (Cullen), and reduced to "something like exactness." (Chapman, Crit. 7, 22.)

Querist.—"There are great minds that were bred in Allopathy, why do they not seek out and discover the truth," &c.

C.—Simply because they adopted the false premises of their fathers respecting the action of the vital force in disease, instead of learning it from nature. Hence all their superstitions are "baseless as the fabric of a vision." (Crit. 5.)

Querist.—Why, if our deductions are the great truths of medical science, more of the intelligent minds of this and the past ages could not see and follow them. Why were they left for simpler minds to discover?

C.—You mistake the character of the minds. The simple minds (in your use of the term) are those who adopt principles and practices without searching into and testing their correctness and propriety. The strong minds are those that accept no theory that will not bear the test of experiment and demonstration. They admit no theory that contradicts itself, as that "inflammation is disease and the outlet of life" (Crit. 45, close of page), and yet that it is "purely physiological and indispensable to the cure of disease." (Crit. 42, 44, 45.) That poisons are the best medicines; that opium and other deadly agents are stimulant in small doses, and sedative in large ones. Only minds perverted by a false education can admit such absurdities as these with which Allopathy abounds, of which in fact it is wholly constituted. (Crit. 7, 8, 22, 25.) Let him who has doubts on any subject relating to medicine, study well the facts contained in my Criticisms, and the principles stated and illustrated in my Theory and Practice, and above all test both thoroughly in practice, as there directed, draw his own conclusions, and he will "sweep away the whole mass of matter that has been accumulating time out of mind, and christened medical science, with the besom of destruction." (5.)

PLEA OF EMOTIONAL INSANITY.

ALMOST everybody is surprised and disgusted with the fashion which is now prevailing in our Criminal Courts of considering the plea of "emotional insanity," which is being set up by the attorneys for the defense in almost every case of imputed homicide which comes before them. This is the case especially when one man takes another's life in the heat of passion. So often has this plea been successfully made that our courts are merely looked upon as the door through which the criminal passes from the prison to freedom and entire immunity from punishment for the highest grade of crime. This general understanding has induced the people in many instances to take the law into their own hands and to do most reprehensible and dangerous acts which under a better state of jurisprudence they would not attempt, nor even for one moment think of doing. This state of things is leading to most fearful results as is seen in the practice of mob law, espicially in the southern and western States when the good people are horrified by the fiendish acts of mobocrats. And the most alarming phase of the evil is felt in the fact that it is not likely to stop whilst the courts continue the "fashion" of giving so much latitude to this "emotional insanity" plea. Until the courts adopt a rule of practice more in accordance with common sense and common safety, but little change for the better can be hoped for from the masses, who feel that their own safety can only be secured, or rather approach security by the use of lynch law. The English courts seem to be moving in a reformatory direction on this question, as is shown by a case which recently came before the Maitland assizes as reported in the *Medical Times Gazette* for July 1875. Two ship carpenters were working together in a mast house, about six feet apart, when one of them struck the other on the back of the head with his adz and killed him. No cause for the act was known except that they had quarreled about a year before. When the murdered man fell the murderer was seen to throw down his adz and go back to other workmen to get assistance. It was shown that when the prisoner was questioned about the act he said the murdered man killed himself, and then he remarked that he was "a good fellow, a good workman," etc. The next day he told the officer that he "knocked his mate on the head and the stupid fellow fell down dead," etc. The counsel for the prosecution urged that the prisoner had cherished a grudge against his mate; had yielded to sudden impulse to murder him, and that all the circumstances of the act, and especially the prisoner's denial of it, were consistent with perfect sanity, and indicated a perfect consciousness of guilt. The defense was that the prisoner's act was an act of insanity; that he had been insane as was proven; was insane at the time he committed the act, and was not responsible for it. It was proved that the man had been in the lunatic asylum from the last of the year 1868 to the year 1872; that in April and October, 1874, he was treated for a smimming in the head and melancholia. The jailor testified that he believed the prisoner to be of unsound mind on the subject of religion. It was also in proof that the grandfather was insane, and also one of the sisters. Justice Brett, before whom the case was tried, "repudiated the medical theory of insanity, declined to allow any weight to an opinion from Taylor's Medical Jurisprudence; thought Taylor was high medical authority, but was not a lawyer, and therefore not good legal authority." He set forth clearly the well known legal doctrine that it is not enough for a man to be mad in order to obtain exemption from responsibility for a criminal act, but he must be so mad that he does not know what he was doing, or as not to know that he was doing wrong. He said the question was not whether the man was of unsound mind, but whether he was so insane as not to know the nature of the act committed—that he did not know that he was killing a man, or that he should not know that he was doing wrong in killing a man. If the jury were satisfied of this they would acquit the prisoner on the ground of insanity; otherwise, they were bound to find him guilty of murder, and he solemnly adjured them to do their duty—that the ultimate responsibility of the man's fate would rest with others—but their duty was simply to find their verdict with reference to the truth of the case and the effect of the evidence. "The verdict of the jury was that the prisoner was guilty of the act but not accountable for it." The prisoner was ordered to be detained during Her Majesty's pleasure.

We are informed that the influential part of the public press took the ground that the Judge's charge was in accordance with scientific truth as well as with public policy; that if when the prisoner began to think about killing his fellow workman he had also thought about being hanged for it, that the second thought would have prevented the crime, for the fear of punishment would have arrested his hand. If the criminals in this country who escape the rope by means of the "emotional insanity dodge" were put into confinement as they are in England, and *kept* there, we have no doubt but it would have a tendency to lessen the number of murders very greatly. But as our laws are now administered in this country, such criminals are usually set at liberty, and often repeat the crime of murder, and our mock sympathy and benevolence serve as an encouragement to others to commit like offences with the hope that they too may be cleared on the same plea, and so the murderer stalks abroad in our land.

C.

DO WE LIVE IN AN AGE OF IMPROVEMENT?

I answer yes, decidedly yes; though I am aware that some old fogies, and young fogies too, take the negative side of this question; but then we know there are always a few persons to be found who seem to live on the negative side of the world, who are always to be found on the side opposite to every body else on all political, moral and religious questions of the day. They are always finding fault with both Church and State, and so I propose to let them stick to their opinions, whilst I float with the popular cnrrent and prove the affirmative of the above question.

I propose to confine my argument mainly to the department of dress, because I know that is the all absorbing subject of the day; and that of itself should be taken as conclusive proof that I am right, for I say without the fear of successful contradiction, that there never was a time in the history of this world when there was such a general cry, "wherewithall shall I be clothed?" as at the present. But to make this question still more plain let us appeal to history. It says there was a time when our parents had nothing to wear but clothes made out of fig leaves, and as the historian has not told anything about the make-up of the dress, as our historians do now, we must necessarily conclude that the dress was very plain. Next we are told that the people dressed in the skins of animals, and now who does not know that that looked "*perfectly awful?*" Just to think of the ladies coming into church, some dressed in goat skins, some in bear skins, sheep skins, etc. Why the sight of that would make our modern ladies faint away, unless it should be fashionable, and then it would be pretty trying on their nerves for a short time. As I said before, there was certainly no style about the cut of the dress in those days or the account would have been given, for *style* of the dress is the most interesting part about it. Next we are told that the priests and a few others wore fine robes, but we know the common people dressed very plainly, for there is no account of the fashions, except what is given of the robes worn by the priests and they would not bear a comparison with the clothes worn by ministers now. When we come along down to the time of Solomon, we learn that *he* dressed very fine, but we may doubt whether he was dressed any better than some of our gentlemen of the present day; and as for his wives and concubines we know they would not compare with the ladies of this day, for woman's rights were not then thought of, and of course they were kept in the back ground. Yet I must say it looks like an oversight of Solomon's biographer that he omitted to say anything about how his wives were dressed, and I have no doubt it has cost our modern ladies a great deal of anxious thought and speculation as to whether they wore point laces, diamonds, high or low necked dresses, etc. If these things had been stated, it would have given much more satisfaction than what we are told about Solomon's morals, or the morals of his household, for that is not a matter of near so much importance these times as it was in the past ages. History has given us a very interesting account of a lady who lived sometime after Solomon, by the name of Cleopatra; how she was dressed on a certain occasion when she rode in a galley to meet Mark Anthony and captivate him, which she did in right good style. In the history of this lady we find one of the strongest arguments in favor of dress, for who supposes that she could have reached old Anthony's heart if it had not been for splendid dress? If it had not been for the fascinations of dress she could not have captivated old Anthony, and she might have lived in her widowhood the balance of her days. About this time Jesus came into the world, and being born of poor parentage, in a very poor little village, he dressed very plainly, and seemed to throw his influence against fashion and fine dress, in that noted discourse he preached on the Mount. It may be remembered that in that discourse he even went so far as to tell his followers to take no thought about dress, and he even intimated that a love of fine dress was wrong. The precepts and examples of Jesus and his disciples gave fashion an *awful backset*, from which she has only just fully recovered. All of Jesus' disciples seemed to adopt his views on dress, especially Paul, who we are told was an old bachelor, and of course did not care how he talked to the ladies of his church. I often wonder the ladies ever went to hear him preach. I know very well they would not at this day; for he even went so far as to forbid the women wearing costly apparel, braided hair, gold, pearls, etc. For many generations after Christ established his church fashion scarcely flourished, especially in the church, for such was the influence of his doctrines over the minds of his followers, even down to the beginning of the present century, that church members could be identified by their plain dress, as well as humble manner, and within the recollection of "the oldest inhabitant," churches used to discipline their members for extravagant dress, and even young ladies had to suffer the mortification of a reprimand for wearing flowers in their bonnets. But thanks to the independence of the people, whose spirit is equal to any emergency, they rebelled and conquered. With that good old maxim "better be out of the church than out of the fashion," for their motto, they brought the church to terms in a very short time, so that now no difference can be seen between those who are in the church, and those who are out, except that the church seems to be ahead of the world in dress, and I think this seems very natural, for a church aisle is a much better place to display a fine dress, particularly if it has a long trail, than a box seat in a theater. Then why should not every fine lady and gentleman belong to a church, and attend whenever it suits them, especially in fine weather, when it affords such a splendid opportunity to display fine equipage—and more especially since the ushers have learned to reserve the most comfortable seats in front for the finest dressed ladies and gentlemen of the congregation. It is really interesting to see how the practiced eye of an usher can at a glance comprehend the proprieties of the case, and at a moment's notice be able to decide where is the proper place for each lady or gentleman who appears at the door. But I must not forget to mention the ministers of the present day, and contrast the beautiful style of their well fitting suits with the old style ministers dressed in their old homespun clothes, which were often made by their own wives or daughters. Then again see the beautiful gold watch chains and diamond shirt sets, and diamond rings upon their fingers, all of which is enough to make a minister a subject of great interest to his whole audience, especially the lady part of it, for they have such a keen appreciation of the adornments of the ministry. But it is not necessary for me to say anything more about the style in our churches, for who does not fully appreciate the change, since any one who can afford but a single good suit can make a respectable church member, provided that the dress can be altered to suit the fashion at the time it is worn? It is not necessary, you know, for members to go to church as often as they used to—once in three or six months will answer, or even longer if the weather is not fine. But there is one more point upon which I wish to touch briefly before I close the argument, and that is the universality of fine dress. In ages past it was only the rich and those in high places who dressed well, but now they all dress respectably; the poor as well as the rich, the good as well as the bad—all seem to enjoy these blessings alike. I might go further and show the contrast in another respect; that in times past eight yards would make a lady's dress, now it takes from fifteen to thirty yards. But I think I have clearly shown the truth of my proposition, and so I close for this time, hoping my readers, especially the christian readers, will fully appreciate my argument. S.

REMARKABLE RETARDATION OF PULSE.

THE *Monthly Abstract of Medical Science* gives an account of some very novel and interesting cases of slow pulse, and the probable cause of them, which were reported at a meeting of the Clinical Society of London, of which we give a brief account for the benefit of our readers:

Mr. Pugin Thornton reported a case of a young married woman whose pulse was only 24 beats to the minute, and for several weeks was but sixteen beats to the minute. The history of her pulse in early life was not known, but the doctor had performed tracheotomy upon this woman three years before for syphilitic laryngitis (inflammation of the windpipe), at which time her pulse was but 40 beats to the minute. It appeared that this woman had been subject to fits several years before, and it was inferred that the fits and slowness of pulse were both caused by the presence of syphilitic poison in her system.

Another member of the Society above referred to, reported another case in which the pulse ranged from 25 to 27 beats per minute. After the death of the person it was found that the foramen magnum (hole in the base of the skull through which the spinal cord passes from the brain), was less than one-fourth the usual size. Some of the nerves in the upper part of the chest were enlarged and unhealthy, caused no doubt by the compression upon the cord at the point where it passed through the foramen magnum.

Another member of the Society reported a lady in Paris whose pulse was probably reduced to 65 on account of her being confined to the city during the siege at the late war and consequent fainting sickness which she endured.

Dr. Archibald Hewan then made a statement of his own case, which was in some respects the most curious of all. About twenty years before his pulse was at 72 in the minute, but afterwards was found to be 55, and about eight years ago it fell to 24. He had traveled, never had a fit of any kind, nor fainted, and could bear cold very well. He had lately climbed a mountain several thousand feet high, when his pulse rose to 40. His health was good so far as he knew.

Dr. Althans said that Napoleon Bonaparte had a very slow pulse, and never felt so well as when he was in the excitement of battle, when his pulse would rise to about 60 in the minute.

Another case has been reported in one of the French journals of a man who at the age of 71 had a severe cough and spells of vomiting. Upon examination, his pulse was found to be at 25 in the minute. Four years after it fell to 24, but was perfectly regular. His respiration was natural, except that about every fifteen minutes there was oppressed and suspicious breathing, which ended in syncope (fainting), with palor of face, closure of lips and convulsive movements of the arms. Each attack was followed by an entire suspension of the pulse for several seconds. This state of things continued until death, after which an examination revealed a heart of usual size, but of fatty degeneration. The pancreas was also diseased in the same manner, and the lungs were somewhat inflamed.

There is an intimation given in the history of some of the foregoing reports that the pathological conditions described were probably owing to the use of digitalis, which is a poison often given by some physicians for the purpose of lessening the action of the heart. We have no doubt but in many cases the giving of what are called sedatives (depressers of the vital powers of the body), produce the dilatorious effects often observed like those here detailed.

C.

CASE OF SPINAL CURVATURE AND LUMBAR ABSCESS.

BY A. A. ABERNATHEY, M. D.

SALLIE E. W., *aet* 27, motor vital temperament, and of scrofulous diathesis, came to my house for treatment in January, 1875.

During the fall of 1868, she fell from a ladder, striking her back on a pole on the ground. In about six months she began to complain of pain in the back. Then, in the fall of 1869, an antero-posterior spinal curvature appeared, involving the fourth, fifth, and sixth dorsal vertebra.

As symptoms grew worse the *usual* treatment of blisters, calomel, and nitre was resorted to for the relief of the various disturbances then present. Not improving any, she was taken to the Surgical Institute, at Indianapolis, in March, 1870.

After some weeks delay, an abscess, just about over the region of the kidneys, on the right side, was opened and a large quantity of pus discharged. She remained under the care of this Institution nearly one year. The treatment consisted in opening the abscesses, putting on a costly and cumbersome brace, and giving a little medicine. All to no better purpose than the former treatment. In about eight months after the first abscess was opened another on the left side of the spine was opened.

For about five years these openings have been discharging pus, and occasionally, since the fall of 1873, pieces of bone. Exploration with an elastic probe discovered at least three sub-muscular passages. Passing the probe in the opening of the least lumbar abscess, and upward under the latissimus dorsi muscle, the point would stop near the curve, distance about eight inches. Then directing the probe towards the left, it would pass just over the crest of the illium to about its prominence.

On the right side, the exploration was slightly upward and outward, distance about three and a half inches. These two openings were also connected by another passage from one to the other across the spine; this could not be probed, but whatever was injected into either opening, say the right, would be discharged at the left.

The average amount daily discharged was not far from one ounce, menstruation very irregular, and sometimes suspended for several months.

The treatment consisted in emetics, hepatics, diaphoretics and stimulating tonics. The abscess was syringed out every morning and evening for three months or more with soap suds, then a strong infusion of hydrastis, sanguinaria and celestrus scan., when the calloused walls seemed much softer and inclined to bleed. From two to three hours after this syringing and medicating process, chills would come on and were rather severe during the third month; for another month the abscesses were cleansed only of a morning, and the comp. tinct. of myrrh (No. 6) and cap. used. Chills came as usual in about two hours, but no chill at night.

Frequently when injecting the soap suds, violent coughing would take place, and often she could taste both soap and the medicine injected. Owing to these unpleasant symptoms and the tenderness and readiness to bleed of all these pus cavities, this treatment was abandoned. The patient was then put on the use of comp. syrup of stillingia, and the spiced bitters, hepatics and composition, continued as before when required. Since the latter part of August the patient has been almost entirely on the use of the stillingia preparations. The improvement has been decided and apparently permanent. The abscesses have ceased discharging pus, and have healed up. Her appearance healthy. Does some of the light housework. The catamenia is natural and regular. This case was given up as a hopeless one by all her former physicians. So now, all who know her are astonished at the result. That there is power in Physio-Medical remedies for the relief of suffering, and the cure of disease no one should doubt when there are so many evidences in proof.

Noblesville, Ind., Nov. 22, 1875.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE

PHYSIO-MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
OF INDIANA.

Thirteenth Annual Session, June 8th, 9th and 10th, 1875.

SECOND DAY.

MORNING SESSION.

SENATE CHAMBER, INDIANAPOLIS, IND., June 9, 1875.
(Continued from No. 10 of this Journal.)

Dr. Davidson—Thought the faulty definitions of poisons was in a great measure reponsible for the seeming errors expressed in this discussion. Dr. Bufkin was only endeavoring to expose the errors of the old definition by assuming the position to which it leads, thus illustrating the confusion which springs from it. If we should take the pains to go square at Dr. B. we would be apt to find him sound in his therapeutics. But if some among us should actually be confused and lost on the subject of poisons this fact would exhibit an urgent necessity for clear and explicit definitions. Therefore, let us continue to revise and re-revise our definition of poisons until it shall express the exact truth.

Adjourned till 2 o'clock, P. M.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Convention called to order by the President at 2 o'clock, P. M., when the Constitution was read and Miss H. M. White and Jesse Leeka joined the Association.

The Committee in the case of Dr. C. E. Wood, reported as follows:

WHEREAS, The deceased was a young man of no ordinary ability, energy and integrity, securing the confidence and friendship of his patrons and associates by a faithful discharge of his duties, and a firm and zealous support of true Physio-Medical principles; therefore, be it

Resolved, That this Association in his death has lost a star of no small magnitude, and that we tender our sympathy to his family and kindred.

GEO. HASTY,
R. A. SMITH,
D. H. STAFFORD,
Committee.

Prof. J. Young remarked—Although he was not a physician yet he had observed something of the different systems of medicine, and the principles by which they are governed. Much good matter had been presented in the discussion here. We must look on all sides of this subject of poisons, and examine it in all its bearings.

When we attempt to get up a scientific definition that will correctly define all classes of poisons, we find it hard to accommodate all the slight shades of difference that exist between vegetables and animals of this class.

I learn that arsenic is given to cure the ague, and am informed that it will prevent the chills, but certainly such a poison as this should never be swallowed by any one, for it produces a condition of the system that is unnatural and does violence tó the vitality and health of the patient. I am gratified to learn that we have a class of physicians who adopt nature's plans and means for the cure of the sick, rejecting the use of all poisons and restricting their practice to the use of innocent medicines. The assurance of Dr. Carey that the lobelia is entirely innocent, and that no case of death from its effects can be found; also, that it is reliable and efficient wherever indicated; that it will cleanse the stomach, arouse all the glands of the system, relieve pain, quiet nervous agitation, induce natural sleep, etc., is an item worthy of note, for Dr. Carey is an old practitioner who has given large quantities of lobelia and ought to be well acquainted with its character.

The Allopathic doctors are compelled to make very nice distinctions, and be very exact in the management of their poisons. They are giving medicines which they know are destructive and would kill the patient if a mistake in quantity or quality should be made. He remembered a case of measles that occurred in his own family several years ago. He called on an Allopathic doctor for fashionable treatment, not because he thought the patient would be benefited by it, but because the customs of society seemed to demand that such a ceremony should be performed. The doctor was paid $20 for his services, and it took the patient two months to recover. "Now," said he, "I have no doubt that nature would have cured the patient sooner and better without the doctor's poisons than with them, for I have great confidence in the efficacy of nature."

Recently he had noticed the treatment of a little child according to Allopathy. After a lingering illness the patient died. He did not know that the medicine killed it, but he knew that the poisons given to it were calculated to kill it, and he could not avoid the thought that it might have recovered if it had been left to nature without any medication. He had noticed some of the prescriptions in a horse doctor's book, and they were perfectly horrible. A single dose was sometimes sufficient to kill twenty men, and he feared it would kill twenty horses. Such treatment was barbarous and cruel to the horses. It was of great importance to know that our medicines are innocent and efficacious, so that we can rely on them. He knew that medicines were not always pure and good. Some seasons would produce better fruits and vegetables than others. Also, medicines were sometimes inferior in quality, but if we are carefnl in testing our agents but little inconvenience will occur from this cause.

He did not believe there was a separate herb that would heal each disease incident to mankind, but he believed that the system might frequently be relieved of obstructions and assisted to recover by the use of medicines. He was glad that this subject was being discussed. Its investigation would set us to thinking, and light would be evolved where it was greatly needed, for medicine, vague, and unreasonable, had become a dark spot on the science of the world. It was a most absurd thing to give poisons, and yet we have men claiming to be scientific, who give poison to healthy persons that they may see what disease will be produced. It was singular that a whole class of men should give medicines just because they are poisons, just because it is their nature to produce disease and destroy life.

RECOLLECTIONS OF MEDICAL PRACTICE.

BY AN ORIGINAL PHYSICIAN—DR. JOSEPH GRAY.

No. 6.—Another case of supposed Consumption cured.

Mrs. T. of T. had been given over by her physicians to die with consumption; her husband left her bedside a little while to go and see how his hired man got along. The man inquired:

"How's your wife?"

The response was, "She is no better, neither have I any hope that she ever will be; she is in the last stages of consumption, the doctors all agree."

"I know a doctor that will cure your wife!" replied Mr. ——.

"Where does he live?" was the quick query.

Respondent said—"In Woodstock, Vt."

"Take my best horse and bring him here," was Mr. T.'s rejoinder, and forthwith Mr. —— was on his way to W., and I reached the house of the invalid at night, and went to bed, but not to sleep. First, my thoughts were too busy; secondly, my patient's constant cough precluded sleep. As I reflected upon her case when morning dawned, finding her still alive and that NATURE HELD OUT, although a racking cough had followed her all night, I ventured to give her an emetic at once while there was still some strength left. The emetic operated well, removing phlegm, etc., that had kept a constant irritation and produced that hard, dry, hacking cough. This vantage ground I followed up for some weeks, and all the organs, unloaded from the cold mass, went about their legitimate work, renewing their functions, and this so-called consumption was cured, much to the joy of her family.

I left her my cough remedy, and injunctions to avoid taking cold and thereby renewing her complaint. Mrs. T.

thought she would be careful. They had a new house and the maid had washed the floor of an hitherto unfurnished room. Mrs. T. *just stepped in* to give some directions about the arrangement of furniture, took cold—and there is no surer way if one wants to get cold than to inhale the air of a damp room in the process of drying. Mrs. T. took a relapse, her cough returned, and I was sent for. Now came the "tug of war;" it was a hard case, but repeating the former course of sweat, emetic, bath, friction, warming medicines, tonics, *not* stimulants, Mrs. T. was again restored and *then* was sure she would be careful.

Happening to use the word stimulant above, awakens the thought, and it is one I record with gratitude, that, in my practice of more than half a century, I have never found it necessary to make drunkards by means of administering or recommending whisky or any intoxicating beverage; *that* with *other* poisons I have usually rejected and been always reasonably successful.

A FEW MORE WORDS ABOUT THIS JOURNAL.

Under the heading "Explanatory," on the cover, we have stated who the Editors are; but at the same time it should be remembered, as stated in the "Salutatory" published in the first number, that the JOURNAL is free to all who may wish to be heard on any or all questions which legitimately belong to the JOURNAL; but we do not wish to be understood to endorse everything which we may publish; but we reserve the right to criticize or admit proper criticisms upon any article which may appear in our columns. COMMITTEE.

If I were called to point out the most alarming sins to-day—those which are most deceitful in their influence and most soul destroying in their ultimate effects, I would not mention drunkenness with all its fearful havoc, nor gambling with its crazed victims, nor harlotry with its hellish orgies; but the love of money on the part of men, and the love of display on part of women. While open vice sends its thousands, these fashionable and favored indulgences send their ten thousands to perdition. They sear the conscience, they incrust the soul with an impenetrable worldliness, debauch the affections from every high and heavenly object, nor make man nor woman the worthier of self. While doing all this, the poor victim is allowed by public opinion to think himself or herself a Christian; while the drunkard, the gambler, or the prostitute, is not deceived by such a thought.

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Physio-Medical Journal

AND

REFORM ADVOCATE.

VOL. I. *INDIANAPOLIS, DEC., 1875.* NO. 12.

WHAT SHALL WE DRINK?

BY D. B. WIGGINS, M. D.

The sense of thirst is confined to the fauces or the throat, but experiments have been tried where thirst has been satisfied by introducing water into the stomach without being swallowed. So with hunger, and both of these are confined to a certain condition of the stomach, and when this state of the stomach exists, water is much more readily absorbed and food much more readily digested. If the habits and circumstances of man were truly natural and in strict accordance with the laws of nature, he would seldom require drink. Chewing and smoking tobacco creates a desire to drink at time of eating; also, eating too fast undigested food and acid, causes an inward irritation or fever, and a demand for drink. We form the habit of drinking at meal time or between meals, and from the mere force of habit we take gallons of different kinds of drink to drench the stomach and to be filtered through the system. The thirst produced by all of these causes is strictly speaking an unnatural thirst, and in no measure a true indication of the real requirements of the system, and this kind of thirst is the most tormenting, and the more drink taken the more seems to be required, and the more injury is produced to the system. A man may so arrange his diet by eating juicy fruit and taking time to eat that he would not require very much drink.

It is a law of the animal economy that water taken into the stomach is taken up by the absorbents and carried into the circulation unchanged, and if any undigestible substances are held in solution they are also absorbed with it, and if habitually used the purifying organs become greatly impaired. This is exemplified in those cases of urinary calculi which are often the result of drinking hard water, which holds a large quantity of mineral substance in solution. It is well known that this kind of water used for washing the hands produces a dryness and roughness of the skin, which often cracks and becomes painfully diseased. This being the effect on the comparatively tough outside surface, what may we infer would be the effect on the delicate nerves and tissues of the internal organism.

It is indeed very strange that there should be so little thought on this subject, that civilized people should be continually provoking and irritating their bodies with the mineral impurities of the water which they drink. There is no uncertainty in this matter, the stomach, liver and every organ and tissue and substance of the body suffer from the use of such water. The use of water impregnated with mineral substances may provoke an action of the kidneys or bowels; so may Glauber and Epsom salts, and in some cases may be favorable to the patient for the time being, when if continued cannot fail to do mischief by leaving the organs in a cold, inactive state. Many people have done themselves great injury by taking salts and other mineral waters, under the mistaken notion that they were purifying to the blood. Many who are in the habit of over eating and daily swallowing quarts of mineral water, may temporarily work off the ill effects of their over eating, but this process sooner or later will produce dangerous results.

New attractions are springing up all over the country, new mineral waters are being strongly recommended by the respective parties interested by the way of dollars and cents, and the disposition to gulp them down is universal, and watering places are patronized by invalids and the fashionable, and for aught I know will be the place of resort during the summer season as long as they are fashionable, and as long as men and women live on highly seasoned food and do nothing in the way of exercise.

I am convinced that in the end the effect of mineral waters on the human body is injurious, and that the best drink for man, and that which agrees with the vital organs the best, is pure cold water. By eating juicy fruits and succulent vegetables he may require but very little of this. But if he must have drink, it is best that it should be pure, and about the temperature of the system. Drink should not be taken with the food, but if thirsty it is better to take it a little while before eating or some time after. Ice water, and ice cream are injurious, from the great difference of temperature they produce in the stomach, and their effect is often dangerous and fatal.

Buffalo, New York.

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MENTAL SYMPTOMS OF IMPROVEMENT.

We are glad to be able to say that there are mental symptoms of improvement now being developed in the Physio-Medical Recorder of Cincinnati. We here give one decided symptom :

"Carbolic Acid.—Some people are always anxious for 'new remedies,' and if anybody will puff up some fresh article, they will believe and swallow the entire puff, on the same principle that silly folks buy and use any quack medicine that is advertised. It requires some sense and medical information to discriminate good materials from humbuggery in these matters. A case in point is the use of carbolic (or phenic) acid, about which so many physicians have gone demented. To read the glowing accounts of its wonderful effects in wounds, ulcers, erysipelas, scarletina, small-pox, *imaginary* aneurism, etc., one would suppose it would be necessary only to rub on a few drops of the marvelous 'new remedy,' and this complex machinery of man would run forever without stoppage or decay."

* * * * * —[*March No. 1875.*

To us this looks vere much like the Recorder is hereafter to sail clear of everything in medicine that has the slightest shade of humbuggery attached to it. We are all the more pleased to see this announcement, from the fact that the second article, and altogether the most eulogistic of the good qualities of this "humbug" (carbolic acid) that we ever read, was in the Recorder of 1864 or '65. (Not having the volume at hand, we are not positive as to which of the volumes contained this article on the therapeutic value of this acid). A few years subsequent to this, the readers of that journal were treated to a detailed account, by its Lebanon corresponding editor, of the quick cure of a cancer of the stomach of a colored lady, in which smart-weed played the deobstruent. A careful digest of the symptoms, as given in the case, did not carry conviction to the minds of many that the lady was actually suffering from carcinoma. But of all the "humbugs" that have appeared under the name of science, perhaps none excels the case of the amputated foot reported by the corresponding editor of the Recorder at Morrow, Ohio. I will let him tell of his own scientific (?) discovery:

"There is one peculiarity that I now wish to speak of.

On the afternoon of the 25th Dr. Holden and I put the amputated portion of the foot in a glass jar of alcohol to preserve it. We put it in with the toes downward, all the weight of the foot resting on the great toe. That evening he complained of his big toe feeling tired. The next morning his father informed me that George could not sleep, saying his big toe hurt him, and it was being pressed upon. I dressed his stump—he complained all the time—and did the best I could to move all pressure on that side of the stump, thinking the pain might be caused by pressure in the dressing. But, on my return that evening, he said I must do something for his big toe, for it was hurting him so very much it was impossible for him to rest. In fact, he was getting almost frantic about it, saying: 'You must do something; I just can not stand it.' We dressed the stump as well as we could, so as to have as light a dressing as possible on that side, but all to no purpose. He could not rest.

"Dr. Holden and I were talking the matter over, when I happened to remark how the foot stood in the jar, resting upon its great toe. We concluded to move the foot on our return to the office. It was nine o'clock at night when we lifted the foot in the jar and tied it up to the cork, so there could be no pressure on the great toe. The next morning we found him resting quite comfortably. He said: 'Doctor, I rested well last night.' I called his father aside and asked him at what time the toe quit hurting him. He said about nine o'clock last night, and that it got easy all at once, the boy saying: 'There, it is all right now; the pain is gone.' I then informed the father what we had done."

The Recorder, with its "some sense and medical discrimination," does not tell us how science accommodated her laws to the different positions of the foot; that the pressure at the point of suspension would not be equal to that exerted upon the toe when supported by it, and the effect upon the stump the same in kind, only differing in location.

Those who have no "sense and medical information," and are therefore not able to reason from cause to effect correctly, might be led to think a solution of this case, with its pain in the toe, and its cessation at nine o'clock, is contained in the history of the case: "The weather being quite warm, and the foot quite hot during the night of the 25th (the only night that the foot was placed in the jar resting upon the big toe), the father applied cold water to keep the stump at nearly the natural temperature. On my visit on the 26th, around, or rather below and in front of the ankle, on the outside of the stump, it was quite dark, of a greenish hue, with considerable odor. I now added to the water twenty per cent. carbolic acid, (this, of course, was before the Recorder had 'some sense and medical information,') and one more portion of compound tincture of myrrh; this to be kept on constantly by a cloth wet with the wash."

The history of the case shows farther, that the difficulty in the toe increased in proportion to the spread of the gangrene, as well as the wonderful coincident that on the very night that the foot was suspended in the jar, so as to relieve the toe from pressure, the line of demarcation was established between the healthy and gangrenous portion of the stump.

Now, that the Recorder has set itself squarely on the safe platform of "some sense and medical information to discriminate good material from humbuggery," its readers may hereafter feel perfectly safe in swallowing the entire contents of each number. Their mental palate will not be troubled with the taste of humbug. This apparently safe stand is akin to the position of that noted person who proposed to keep out of water till he had acquired the art of swimming; it excludes all means of curing the sick from its pages until its readers have proved by experience and the discussions in other journals, that they are genuine.

There may be another solution of this position in the mind of the Recorder—that everything is humbuggery that does not originate back of it, and through it first see the light of day. H.

Anderson, Ind., December 1, 1875.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE

PHYSIO-MEDICAL ASSOCIATION OF INDIANA.

Thirteenth Annual Session, June 8th, 9th and 10th, 1875.

SENATE CHAMBER, INDIANAPOLIS, IND., June 9, 1875.

(Continued from No. 11 of this Journal.)

The second item of regular business was proposed:

WHAT IS CONTAGION?

Dr. Hasty—Remarked that a paper was expected from Dr. A. Churchell, of Nevada, Mo., who was paying considerable attention to this subject; but as yet nothing had been received from that gentlemen.

Dr. Carey—Contagion means communication of disease by contact, and yet everybody understands that small pox is contagious, *i. e.*, that persons having it will communicate it to others who come near them, and it is generally understood that an exhalation or effluvia arising from the patient is taken into the system with the breath and develops a new case of small pox. Other forms of disease are understood to be contagious because they are communicated in this way, or by contact. But what is contagion? Small pox, measles, etc., are called contagious, but we may read long dissertations on this subject by scientific men, and then wonder what contagion is. Some persons suppose that we must know precisely what the cause is before we are prepared to treat the disease, and it is often very important to appreciate the cause of affliction and remove it when it can be done, but it frequently happens that we can only judge of the cause from its effects. Let us remove the cause when we can, and always endeavor to remove the disease, whether we understand the cause or not.

Dr. A. Curtis—I do not expect to aid you much in showing the causes of contagion. Nor do I know that it is of essential importance to know what the cause is, but it is essential to be able to remove the results.

Suppose I know that certain combinations of nitrogen, oxygen, carbon, etc., produce small pox, measles, or scarlatina, etc., will this knowledge assist me to remove the results of the disease? Suppose I should get a certain kind of dust or matter in my eye, will a knowledge of its chemical composition or organic structure assist me to remove it?

Contagion is a disease contracted by touch. In itch a small insect comes in contact with the surface and produces its characteristic form of disease. In other cases, as measles, etc., the materials which reproduce the disease float in the air, and come in contact with the lungs and air passages. The question of importance is how to be rid of the disease whatever may have produced it. The question, "What are poisons?" is of vastly greater importance to us than this of contagion.

The jewel of our system is to know how to remove disease, and the characteristics which distingush us from other schools are our rejection of poisons, and the principles entertained by us in reference to fever, inflammation, disease, etc.

All fevers are directly caused by the same thing—the resistive influence of the vital force. But the causes of contagion, perhaps, can never be fully discovered. Dr. Curtis related the case of a lady who had small pox in the confluent form, but did not know where she got it. Under Physio-Medical treatment she recovered without difficulty. Her five children had it badly, and all recovered readily. No other cases preceded these in the neighborhood, and no one took it from them. Another bad case in the same city was taken to the hospital and soon died under the scientific management of that institution. Now, what is contagion, and what are its causes? Who will tell? Those who are impure, full of morbific matter are good subjects for the development of contagion. A slight amount of any obnoxious cause leavens the entire lump, and they are liable to suffer more severely than those who are comparatively pure. The great art is to cure; the greater, to prevent disease.

Dr. Hasty—Is it not altogether possible that in our zeal to assign a cause for certain results that we see manifest in disease we get sometimes confused? The idea has been advanced that cholera depends upon certain *animalculæ*, little living bodies, that make their way into the human system, and thus give rise to the serious disturbances that we meet in that difficulty.

Once I knew a man who had nasal catarah, and whether because of negligence in point of cleanliness or not, I can not say, the fly deposited its larva about the passages, and the media being favorable, the egg hatched out the "skipper," and soon the man was in great trouble because of his "new comers." Now, in this case, the "bug" came about *because of* the diseased condition, and was not the *producing* cause of the catarrh trouble. And, perhaps, in cholera, the *living bodies* come about by virtue of a diseased condition, and are not the cause of its development. The soil being good, the circumstances favorable, the germ is deposited, and propagates wonderfully. So in contagion, many things having been assigned as the direct producing cause of the difficulty, may ultimately be found to be resultants of the difficulties denominated contagious, instead of the true causes of its production.

Dr. Curtis—It is important to know the cause of disease, when such knowledge is attainable, but my remarks were applied to contagion alone.

Essays were called for, when *Dr. S. E. Carey* read an essay on "The Vital Forces and their Relation to other Forces," which was published in the seventh number of this journal.

Prof. Young—Remarked that the essay read by Dr. Carey was on a subject of great interest in the present day. He thought the essay a noble one, and he fully agreed with its conclusions, as he utterly disliked materialism. He believed, however, that men, devoted by their profession to the study of science, should well know the arguments on both sides. He would, therefore, for the time being, act as the objector, and present the arguments relied on by such men as Draper, Tyndall and Spencer. These scientists regard the parent plant, or animal, as furnishing a germ like itself, being a piece of mechanism exactly fitted in all its parts for the actions we call life. But they believe that the latent force which starts this into motion is the sun's heat and electricity. These views depend somewhat upon the doctrines of cell life. All vegetable and animal tissue is formed of cells. A cell is the first start of life. A cell is a hollow globe filled with fluid. In life the fluid moves and forms a wall across, making its house into two cells. These cells multiply and open into each other and form tubes. All the life of either plant or animal seems to be the sum total of the life of all the millions of cells of which it is composed. The parent plant, or animal, has formed the cells, but in many cases these cells are dry as wheat grains, corn and seeds kept one year. While thus dry cells there is no motion; therefore, no life.

A seed of wheat taken from the Pyramids of Egypt, 3,000 years old, has been known to germinate. Surely no life nor motion was in it for 3,000 years; but when planted, rain filled up the cells with water, and aided to change its starch into sugar to feed the plant, then the sun's heat started the water in these cells into motion, and thus awakened life. You object that you can kill the life in a seed by heating or boiling it. Thus you disorganize by your heating the delicate germ, and so change it that it is unfit to develop life. So, if you roast or broil a living body, you dissolve it and vitality becomes impossible. This theory of life has much to sustain it in the variety of nature around us. Roots and bulbs dry up in in winter, vegetable sap moves but little, nature lies dormant. But in spring, when the sun's heat comes out, sugar water flows from the trees, bulbs and roots begin the motion of a new life, and with increasing heat all nature become full of the activities of life. The frozen snake awakens; the bear shakes off his winter sleep; annuals burst into new activities; the birds sing and make nests. For the frozen regions there is little life, perhaps only the red snow plant; at the equator, with moisture, a wonderful amount of life of plant and animal is developed by heat and moisture. In deserts there is no moisture, therefore, no fluid in germ cells to be awakened into the motion we call life. You say every plant has a life force of its own that guides and moulds the shape of the plant. But does not the process of grafting seem to indicate that the shape of the tubes in the twig, or of the parts in the germ, guides the after form of the branch and fruit? You say a dead egg will not come into a chicken by the heat of a hen. True, but what has happened to that egg? Its parts have been addled or disarranged by motion or otherwise. The egg differs from the seed in having fluid within, and not needing rain to fill its cells ; but if these delicate fluids are jumbled together, the germ becomes unfit for life. Closing its pores may preserve it for a time, yet when that is done the egg soon so far changes as to be unfit for life. Disorganization, then, kills seeds and eggs just as it kills animals. Life can only exist in perfect organs. But now, again, if heat does not awaken life in the egg, why does the hen sit so long, with much toil and pains? Then animal heat is not needed. Steam heated houses can hatch millions of chickens. I do not say with Samuel Thomson that heat is life, but I do say that heat and its electric influence is the great awakener of life on our planet.

These facts appear favorable to a kind of materialism, but they are not conclusive. Is a life law not needed to form the boundary line between the varied families of plants and animals? Mules can not give rise to a new species. Varieties soon fall back to the old form. Then if plants and animals could be accounted for by a general life force of sun heat, man's life can not thus be explained. The life or soul of man is full of intuitions. The first principles of all knowledge do not come from the five senses. Axioms are written in the soul conscience, and a sense of good and evil comes not to man by the five senses. God has put in him as a law of his life, the tendency to religion and to a divine worship, and the hopes of a future life have spread as wide as humanity in all ages. These make man the noble being he is—God's image. They come not from the sun's heat. Let the scientist grovel among the cells, but let us rise Godward, in the full persuasion that this divine spark is living within.

Dr. Curtis—I agree that this subject is of great importance. Nothing should take its place. Tyndall says, "When contemplating the properties of heat, motion, etc.," there is something beyond all this which he can not comprehend. This something we call the vital force. Immateriality is not nothing. It is something that does not answer the description of matter, and which we can only comprehend by its effect on matter. We learn the properties of matter by their effects; their quantities, capabilities of use, cohesion, combustibility, etc., and we become acquainted with the immaterial forces also by observing their effects. Our knowledge of heat, light, electricity, etc., is all gained by this means. Also, we learn the powers of the vital forces in the same way. By their operation a plant, an animal, a man is produced.

The properties of matter have no existence without the matter. What is softness or hardness disconnected from matter? But the motive powers have existence without matter. One who claims to be a scientist says he knows of nothing in existence that is not matter or a property of matter. Are heat and electricity properties of matter? O how this idea sinks a man in his own estimation! Under this theory we can have no aspiration to a higher existence. Let us disabuse the minds of the people in this matter.

Dr. Carey—Gave notice that experience in the use of remedies would come next in order for consideration, and hoped that all would come up to the Convention to-morrow morning prepared to relate their experience, and have a good and profitable meeting.

Adjourned to 8 o'clock A. M., to-morrow, June 10, 1875.

THIRD DAY.

MORNING SESSION.

Miscellaneous business.

Dr. Hasty—Offered apologies for the non-attendance of Drs. Churchell, Redding, Spurgeon and Cowgill.

On motion of Dr. D. H. Stafford, the Secretary was ordered to notify delinquents of the amount of their indebtedness to the Society, and request payment.

Here occurred a running discussion in reference to the publication of the proceedings of the Convention, in which Drs. Carey, Bedford, Treat, Davidson, Hasty, Newby, Coffin, Prof. Young and others participated.

Dr. Davidson, of the Physio-Medical Journal, committee appointed last session, presented a report of the doings of the committee, showing that the receipts from all sources in behalf of the Journal, amounted to $237.56, and that the outlay for publication and postage of the five numbers issued amounted to $253.78, leaving the committee $16.22 in debt.

On motion of Dr. Treat, the Convention proposed to pay $75.00 for the publication of the proceedings of the Convention in the Physio-Medical Journal.

President A. Wallace suggested that the Society assess its membership five dollars each to defray the expenses of the committee in publishing the Journal, and that each member who pays the assessment should receive five copies of the Journal in return.

On motion this suggestion was adopted.

REGULAR BUSINESS.

Prof. J. Young presented a restatement of the discussion. The sun is the prime mover of all life. Dr. Curtis, I see, makes life distinct from heat and motion, and attributes it to a separate or distinct vital force. Some of those scientists make very nice theories leading to materialism. The life of seeds is something remarkable. We observe them apparently dead, sometimes for years, and even ages, and then, under the influence of the sun's heat, develop life and grow. It seems that as long as the cells of the seed are not disorganized, that life may be developed by heat. If the cells are perfect in formation the influence of heat will cause motion of their contents, and motion is said to be life. It would seem that if life is motion, and the sun's heat sets up or starts motion, it generates or originates life.

Dr. Hasty—The cells of different kinds of seeds may be alike so far as microscopical or chemical examination will reveal, but there is a peculiarity in the force which controls their development so that each seed when it grows will develop a plant after the pattern of its parent. From this it would seem that there is distinct individuality in forces as well as organisms.

Prof. Young—We admit that there is a series of facts opposed to the idea that heat and motion constitute life, but there are circumstances which seem to indicate that it is based on facts. The vitality of the egg may be preserved for a long time by coating it with something that will keep out the oxygen of the air. Oil or varnish would, perhaps, answer this purpose very well, and when the egg is brought under favorable circumstances the chicken is developed. It seems that the influence of oxygen disorganizes the cells of the egg on which the development of life depends; but when the oxygen is excluded the cellular formation is preserved, and the proper amount of heat supplied from the body of the hen, or by artificial means, sets up that motion in the cells, which constitutes vitality, and a live chicken is the result.

Dr. Hasty—I am afraid that Prof. Young has got hold of this egg subject wrong end foremost. If I am not greatly mistaken the oiling or varnishing of an egg will destroy its vitality. I think that nature, in the formation of eggs as well as in the construction of seeds, performs her work completely, leaving no opportunity for man to come in with finishing touches, and it is probable that the exclusion of oxygen is the very thing that destroys life.

Dr. Morehouse—The position of Dr. Hasty is correct. I have a brother who raises fine fowls, and he greases the eggs with lard to destroy their vitality. He says he will give $5.00 apiece for all the fowls that can be hatched from eggs that he has greased once.

Drs. White and *D. M. Stafford* presented testimony corroborating the statements of Dr. Morehouse.

Dr. Treat—What is the difference between dead and alive substances? How can we tell one from the other? Some persons say that inorganic matter—chemical elements—have as much life as man.

Dr. Carey—The trouble with these scientists is that they do not comprehend the phenomena of life. They construe theories which they think ought to be true, and then misconstrue the facts of nature to prove them. Heat is not life, neither is motion life. We have life without motion, and motion without life. The great longevity of seeds is a demonstration of life without motion. In Ohio a well was dug, near the bottom of which was discovered some mulberry wood; and the earth from about it was found to contain a great many mulberry seeds which germinated and grew after being exposed to the air and light. It is evident that these seeds retained their vitality from the period of their production until they were dug from the well, which was, perhaps, many thousands of years. Who will suppose that motion was kept up in these seeds all this time? Indeed, it is almost certain that motion would have destroyed their vitality in a much less time. Also, the motion of our earth, air, water, etc., illustrates that motion is not necessary to life. These facts are so plain that we would not mistake their import.

Dr. Bufkin—How do we know when life may or may not be in the seeds of plants. How can we determine whether they are living or dead?

Dr. Davidson—I have no pet theory of any kind to protect in this discussion, and am willing to allow all the truths of nature their full significance. In answer to Dr. Bufkin I will say that it is the nature of seeds to germinate when the conditions necessary to their growth are supplied; and if we wish to decide whether they are dead or alive, we supply those conditions, when they will manifest their vitality by germination, if they are living, but will rot if they are dead. The same conditions which are necessary to induce the germination of living seeds will speedily cause them to rot if they have lost their vitality.

But the germination and growth of seeds do not prove that heat is life. When we investigate this point we find that air, food, water, and heat, must all be supplied before it is possible for any seed to germinate, or manifest vitality by growing. If any one of these is left out, the seed, if alive, will die and decay. While heat is requisite to the growth of seeds, plants and animals, and one of the essentials on which life depends throughout all nature, so far as we know, so is water, so is air, so is food essential to life; so that no life can exist except through the agency of all these conditions. Then why say that heat alone constitutes life? Is it not equally clear that air, water, and food, each constitute life? Would it not be better to say that life is composed of air, water, food and heat? But this, you say, would be ridiculous. So it would. But is it not a much more ridiculous thing to say that "heat is life," or that life is heat?

Adjourned to 2 o'clock P. M.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Convention called to order at 2 P. M., by the President.

The Business Committee made the following report, which was adopted:

The work which we have proposed for the next Convention of this Association is as follows:

1. Experience in the use of remedies. Phytolacca, Eupilobium, Gelseminum, Euphorbia, Camphoria, Bromide Potasse, Ammonia.
2. Erysipelas: Experience in its treatment.
3. Chemisty, and its Relation to Medicine. By Prof. J. W. McPherson.
4. Malaria.
5. Therapeutical Relations of Medicine to Animal Tissues. By Prof. G. N. Davidson.
6. Electricity and its Relations to the Human System.
7. Albuminaria.
8. Medical Jurisprudence as it Relates to Medicine. By Prof. John Young.

The next Convention of this Association shall be held in Indianapolis on the second Tuesday in June, 1876.

The President appointed G. N. Davidson, N. Newby and Geo. Hasty to constitute the Executive Committee.

Dr. Treat read a very interesting essay; subject: "The Vital Forces," which was ordered to be printed, but the author retained the manuscript to make a few corrections which he deemed necessary, and can not be induced to return it for publication.

Prof. A. Curtis, of Cincinnati, made remarks to the following effect concerning Physio-Medical Colleges. He desired the Indiana College to be successful, and thought that one important element of success was found in an infirmary attached to the College. Nearly all the Medical Colleges of to-day keep their principles secreted from the people; and why? As Dr. J. H. Bennet has it, "they have not yet discovered any fundamental principle underlying medicine. Therefore, their teachings can not endure the light of investigation before the people. A majority of the human family die under five years old. Should this be so? Surely it should not. It logically depends on a lack of knowledge in the art of preserving health, or to restore it, which leads to the fatal error of using destructive means to remove disease. If the principles taught in all the Medical Colleges of the land were in accordance with nature, and taught to the people, then a knowledge of the one proper means to restore and preserve health would save the people from early death."

Then you should establish an infirmary in connection with your College, and spread a knowledge of your principles broadcast over the land. This course will bring you friends and insure you success.

Adjourned to the second Tuesday in June, 1875.

B. F. COFFIN, *President.*

G. N. DAVIDSON, *Secretary.*

RECOLLECTIONS OF MEDICAL PRACTICE.

BY AN ORIGINAL PHYSICIAN—DR. JOSEPH GRAY.

No. 7. A Bed-Ridden Woman Restored.

A woman had been confined to her bed for seven years. At the time I was called she had no appetite. To correct her feeble state I gave her my fever powders, composed of euphorbia, (American ipecac), two-thirds arum traphylum, (Indian turnip), one-third in small doses given in warm water before each meal. I had her limbs rubbed with oil obtained by simmering angle-worms in cream. This treatment was continued but a short time, until she was so much improved that she met me at the door supported by her crutch, rejoicing in the use of her limbs. The powders above referrred to were given before each meal for awhile at first, but afterwards only before breakfast and afterwards discontinued when the appetite was fully restored. Of course proper attention was paid to proper diet and hygienic conditions of the patient.

Psychology. Fits. No. 8.

Mrs. C——, the grandmother, said to the son-in-law in the morning, "There is a physician somewhere that can cure your little boy of his fits. I saw him last night in my dream, and should know him if I saw him. Go and find him!"

Accordingly her son set out and first went to consult his minister, Elder S——, as he would naturally know more persons in sickness and their attendant physician. Elder S——directed him to consult Dr. Gray, of Woodstock, Vt., who would be likely to help the child, if any one, as he was acquainted with the circumstances of his curing a child. * * As soon as I entered the house the grandmother exclaimed that I was the M. D. that she saw in her dream, etc. The child had been given up, his case hopeless.

In all cases put the system in a healthy state, then any local derangement may be reached with specifics. Having done so for this child, then gave it fit root, steeped and sweetened with loaf sugar. Monotropa, or (Indian pipe), called by some, also, short flower, from its perfectly white appearance, leaf and flower.

The result was the child recovered from fits, but was soon taken with whooping cough, which it had very severely. I adhered to the first programme of keeping the whole system in healthy condition as possible, and to relieve the cough gave colt's-foot tea, sweetened with honey, etc., but the child having been long worn down, became very low, and rickets set in, and its limbs swelled, etc. For the rickets I used a syrup of purslain, etc. The child recovered and was a good scholar. Several times I felt like giving up the child to die, it was so prostrated with one disease after another; but as long as nature holds out it should receive assistance; we can not tell but that, as in the above case, life will triumph.

Doubtless the grandmother's faith assisted the family in their persistent use of remedies. And probably her mind being greatly exercised with the condition of the child, led to her dream, and years before she had seen me somewhere, and thus was I reproduced in her dream. There is always a reason for everything, though it may not be known.

* * The case alluded to in second paragraph, the child had been given up to die. Dr. B—— sat up all night with it, and pronounced it incurable. I was called the next night, and relieved it, and it in due time recovered. Dr. B—— inquired of me what I did. Among other things I mentioned a bath. Dr. B—— exclaimed, "Risky! risky!" I could scarce restrain laughing in his face, and said, "Yes, wonderful risky to do something that cured a child you had given up to die!"

INSANITY.

SYNOPSIS OF A LECTURE BY JOHN YOUNG, LL. D., PROF. OF MEDICAL JURISPRUDENCE IN THE PHYSIO-MEDICAL COLLEGE OF INDIANA, DELIVERED BEFORE THE CLASS, NOV. 20, 1875.

The lecturer commenced by making some reference to his former lectures so far as to remind the class that he had stated insanity to mean unsound of mind—the term being synonymous with the Latin *non compos mentis*, a legal term most generally used by the courts. He asked the class to bear in mind the four principal divisions into which insanity had been divided, viz:

1. Mania, a condition in which the mind seems to be perfectly uncontrollable, as the case of the man described in the Bible, who lived in the tombs and who came out to meet Jesus on a certain occasion.

2. Monomania, in which a person may be said to be crazy on a certain subject or class of subjects, as the man who was tried on the charge of insanity and who managed his case so skillfully that the court was about to dismiss as sane, when some one suggested a question relating to his correspondence with a young lady, when the monomaniac said, yes, he could tell all about that, and then he went on to say that he was confined in a castle at the water's side and, having no ink at hand, he wrote his letters with cherry juice and threw his letters out of the window, and his lady-love came along in a boat and got his letters, all of which he said was perfectly natural, as he had no other means of corresponding with her whilst he was in prison. As the court knew he had not been in prison, and that the whole story was a fabrication, he did not hesitate to pronounce him a monomaniac.

3. Dementia was a state in which the mental powers were prostrate—a want of mind power. This condition may be, and, indeed, often is, adduced, persons of good mind often falling into this state from overtaxing the mental powers, by which they sink into a state of exhaustion.

4. Idiocy—a want of mind or deficiency of understanding, or complete imbecility. This class, or state, is congenital, and is evidenced by the shape of the head, or rather, by a great deficiency of the cerebral region of the brain. Then there is another division which has been recognized by the medical profession, but had not been fully recognized by the courts, the legal profession being very far behind the medical profession on all questions

relating to this subject. That fifth division has generally been denominated moral insanity—that division upon which the lecturer proposed to dwell more particularly in the present lecture.

Moral insanity is that condition in which the person is so mad that he loses all self-control. It may be an induced condition—one brought about by a person giving loose rein to his passion so long that it gets the entire control of him, until he becomes absolutely unable to govern his temper. The legal profession have been much more rigorous and unreasonable than the medical profession, for it is yet a maxim in law that "drunkenness does not exonorate from crime, is not considered in extenuation of crime" in any case, and yet human conscience will still make some allowance for the circumstances, especially where the criminal has lost the control of the appetite. The maxim in the criminal code is that "when an individual knows the difference between good and evil he shall be held responsible for all his acts." The medical profession recognizes a state called hallucination, but the courts do not recognize it in extenuation of crime as they should.

In mania there are several diagnostic indications which you should remember as of some value to you, one of the most remarkable of which is insensibility to cold, and then there is often an acceleration of pulse, though this symptom is not always present; the wild, bright, and unsettled state of the eye, the muscles of the face co-operating in some measure with the workings of the mind, often giving a very clear index of its operation. Still there are some great men who have a very peculiar expression of countenance by which they show the workings of the mind. Instanced the case of O'Connel, the great Irish orator, whose countenance gave such a correct correspondence with his words, that many who could not get near enough to hear what he said, were edified by the sight of his countenance. The step of the maniac is often very quick and strange, having an undefinable significance about it which gives an index to the state of the mind. The strength is often so very extraordinary that medical men have not been able to fully explain or account for it. These extraordinary manifestations may continue for a considerable period of time, sometimes amounting to weeks. months, or even years. In monomania the person often conceives a relation to, or the identity of some great personage, as a king, president, etc., and in many cases take very ingenious and unusual ways of trying to impress their hallucinations upon the attention and minds of others. In some countries in Europe they take their insane out of their asylums when the weather is good, and let them march with a band of music playing the most lively and cheerful airs, and by this means not only their health but their minds are often greatly improved. The lecturer thought this plan should be followed in this country also.

Mania is oftened feigned for the purpose of escaping punishment for crime, or with a view of carrying out some particular purpose of the mind. In such cases the symptoms are generally shown to arise instantly, or at least much sooner than when it is not feigned. This is a fact which should be carefully remembered. In true insanity the symptoms usually appear quite slowly and gradually. In the false they generally overact, and seem to take pains to exhibit their insanity. In true insanity the person often denies and takes great pains to secrete his insanity. In the false the person generally sleeps well. In the true he is generally restless, often sleeping but very little. Shakspeare gave a test which the lecturer said was of much value—that of pronouncing a sentence and repeating it correctly. In dementia there is usually babbling, an incapability of keeping up a steady action, but an inclination to reel about as if drunk; a blanched countenance, a dull, heavy expression of the eye, with the pupil dilated, and the patient falls into a quiet or lethargic state, the vital force not being able to keep up an action for any considerable length of time. Sometimes the head is large, out of proportion with the body, but the brain is evidently defective or diseased, and of course the mental manifestations are impaired—diseased. In some parts of Switzerland the demented and idiotics are not confined as they are here, but are allowed to range about over the mountains at will, and it is held that the curable recover sooner than when they are confined, and the incurable are less troublesome. The lecturer then gave a history of several interesting cases bearing upon this subject. A waiting maid of an amiable disposition conceived a strong desire to destroy a little girl of whom she had been passionately fond, and in order to avoid committing the crime, she made known her state of mind, and asked to be dismissed from the family. This could scarcely be called a state of moral insanity, but a hallucination, consequent upon a disease of the brain, and of course she could not be held criminally responsible. Another girl, in Paris, requested a mother to let her take her little daughter out walking; the mother granted the request, and the child was taken by the girl some distance to the girl's room, and laid upon the bed, where she beheaded it, and then hung its head up by the window next the street. When the mother came to inquire for her child she told her it was dead, and she then took the head and threw it out into the street.

Several interesting cases of a similar character were reported, after which it was stated that the law is that when a person's insanity is once established he is held to be insane ever afterwards, until the contrary is proven. This rule applies especially to the right to possess or control property. There is also another rule in law which the lecturer thought was cruel, viz: That a lunatic may have lucid intervals, in which he may become criminally responsible for his acts during his lucidness. There is no more consistency in this than to say a patient is well because you can not detect symptoms of fever in a case of intermittent. In neither case can we properly hold the patient to be well. The opinion of Lord Eldon was then referred to, in which a jury was called to sit upon the case of an old man who had considerable property. The jury returned a verdict to the effect that the old man was sane, but not capable of taking care of the property he had made. The court refused to accept the verdict, and sent the jury back with instructions that they find him sane and capable of controlling his property, or insane and not capable of so doing. He also referred to Davis, a tea dealer in London, whose mother would not let him carry any money in his pocket, though he was a very successful dealer and made money rapidly, nor would she let him associate with ladies for fear he would marry, and after some time she tried to have him condemned as insane, but the court would not sustain her application, and very properly made her pay the costs. A rich orphan girl, in England, was allowed to run at large by her uncle, was not educated in any way, and after she grew up she married an ostler, for which her relatives tried to prove her insane, but the courts properly held otherwise and let her keep her property. In law if insanity supervenes after a prosecution is commenced the prosecution stops, or if it takes place after trial it bars the execution of the sentence. Many other interesting cases were related bearing upon these points, which the class were advised to keep in mind, for a study of these cases enables them to arrive at the truth in these cases, as they might at the bed side acquaint themselves with the symptoms and character of all forms of disease.

JABORANDI.

The medical journals are saying considerable about these times about the Jaborandi as a sudorific. It seems that it is a native of Brazil, whose family is not yet definitely known, or in other words, its botanic classification has not been fully determined; but it is said to be a shrub resembling the Marrubium Vulgare (garden rue) of this country. We have never used the article, and therefore can not speak authoritatively on the question, but from what information we have obtained from others who have used it, we are inclined to the opinion there is a great deal more said in its favor than is fully warranted, as there was of the Condurango a few years ago for the cure of cancer. There seems to be a great disposition amongst physicians, as there is amongst the masses generally, to have a great admiration, in many cases amounting to veneration, for anything which " is far-fetched and dearly bought," and we are led to suspect that that is the case with the Jaborandi. We formed this opinion upon the common statement of all who have reported upon its use, that it is not uniform in its effects, but that sometimes a dose of four to six *grammes* (60 to 90 grains) will produce "a violent perspiration, which will continue four or five hours, and which is so thorough as to necessitate several changes of linen." And then we are told by others that that amount will produce no perceivable effect as a diaphoretic; that in some cases it acts as a sialagouge, causing, in some instances, a free flow of saliva; that its sialogogue is less uniform than its diaphoretic action." But there is another statement which to our mind looks quite suspicious; that is that it reduces the temperature of the body without producing diaphoresis in some cases. Drs. Ringer and Gould made a series of experiments on boys from 8 to 12 years of age, and reported the result in the *Practitioner*, in which this peculiarity seems to have been observed, and to our mind it gives strong evidence that the article is a poison.

Since writing the foregoing we find in the *Cincinnati Medical Advance* a report made by Dr. Allen to the Homeopathic Medical Society of New York, in which he gives a lengthy account of the "provings" of Jaborandi upon himself. He says, "in some cases it produces no sweat and no salivation, but a series of symptoms characteristic of the suppression of the secretions. These symptoms are very similar to those produced by *Belladonna.* In this proving a condition was brought about by the use of the drug so distressing that the prover was compelled to take belladonna in order to control the severity of its symptoms. The primary effect upon the prover was constipation ; two days subsequent well defined diarrhea, febrile symptoms, slight delirium and unmistakable cardialgia. The diarrhea continued for some days, yellow, watery, painless, gushing; was finally cured by two doses 3 trit. Gum. Gutt." In our mind the question of admitting the Jaborandi into the Physio-Medical Materia Medica is settled in the negative. We have no use for an agent which gives such unmistakable evidences of a poison. If we had not a great abundance of native plants which possess all the good qualities which have been claimed for the Jaborandi, there might be some propriety in making importations from Brazil and other foreign countries. But seeing we have a great abundance which can be procured fresh from the fields and forests at home, we can not see the propriety of importing articles of such suspicious character, which are liable to be injured in transportation, and also by adulteration. So, for the present at least, we shall let the Jaborandi pass until its friends can furnish some further proof of its having some better qualities than those above described. C.

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WIDBY